

## Rabat reports major Polisario attack

RABAT (R) — Moroccan armed forces repulsed an attack by guerrillas in the Western Sahara near the Algerian border on Wednesday, army headquarters said in a communiqué. It said the attack was launched before dawn by Polisario guerrillas with an estimated 110 armoured vehicles between Fes and Mahbes in the northern part of the disputed territory. Mahbes is 40 kilometres from the Algerian border. "The enemy was repulsed and the royal armed forces dominate the situation throughout the length of the defence line," the communiqué said. The defence line is a protective wall built by Morocco to keep out guerrillas. Reports that Morocco was extending the wall to cut off the guerrillas from the Atlantic coast have coincided with Polisario accounts of fierce fighting in the Western Sahara. Polisario is fighting for independence of the former Spanish territory. The communiqué said fighting was "of rare violence." It said the aim of the guerrilla attack was "to overrun the wall of defences and take a foothold inside the defence enclosure."

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية «الراي»

## Israeli group challenges new law

TEL AVIV (R) — A group of left-wing Israelis appealed to Israeli authorities on Wednesday to drop charges against their colleagues for meeting representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Romania last November. Four of those who took part in the meeting have been charged with breaking a controversial law passed last year banning Israelis from meeting members of Palestinian groups without government permission. "This law has no room in a democratic state. We have not harmed state security. We are guilty only of speaking about peace," said Yael Lotan, an editor at the left-wing newspaper Al Hamishmar and one of those charged. She read out a petition to Israeli Attorney General Yosef Harish from 15 other Israelis, who attended the Israeli-Palestinian meeting, asking him to drop the charges. "We appeal to you to use your authority to stop the legal proceedings against them (the four)," it said. "If you do not find it suitable to use your authority to do this, we do not see the justice in our being given preferential treatment and ask to be charged with them."

Volume 12 Number 3410

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26-27, 1987, JUMADI AL THANI 27-28 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Swareddahab praises Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab of Sudan, who left hospital earlier this week after a successful open-heart surgery here, received at his residence Wednesday members of the Forum Humanum administrative board. Forum Humanum President Ali Al Zughal congratulated Field Marshal Swareddahab on the successful surgery and wished him speedy recovery. The board members were briefed on the general situation in Sudan by Field Marshal Swareddahab, who also expressed his appreciation to Jordan's support for the Sudanese people. He also praised the high standard of the medical services in Jordan.

## Cairo court grants bail in drug case

CAIRO (AP) — A Cairo court on Wednesday ordered the release on bail of two British women arrested 10 days ago in an alleged heroin smuggling attempt. The judge set bail at 2,000 pounds (\$1,500) for each of the two sisters from a suburb of Portsmouth in Hampshire, England. Prosecutor Hassan Al Tohamy said the court decided to allow Maureen Carol Paleschi and her sister Marion Arnold, both married but separated from their husbands, to be freed on bail on condition they do not leave the country while investigation is going on.

## Egypt rejects Turkish shipment

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Two shipments of hazelnuts and herbs from Turkey have been rejected by Egyptian authorities after tests showed they were contaminated with radioactivity, a cabinet member said Wednesday. Health Minister Mohammad Duwidar told reporters during a tour of the Alexandria harbour that both consignments have been ordered back to Turkey and that Egyptian naval units will "ascertain that the ships carrying them leave our territorial waters." These were the first shipments found tainted since authorities began testing all incoming food and other consignments after last April's Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in the Soviet Union.

## Official says Abdallah is not FARL head

PARIS (AP) — A senior French counter-intelligence official said Wednesday he doubts Georges Ibrahim Abdallah is the head of the group blamed for killing American and Israeli diplomats in Paris. Mr. Abdallah, on trial on charges of complicity in murder and attempted murder, has often been described by police as the head of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front (FARL), which claimed responsibility for the attacks. But Raymond Nart, deputy director of the counter-intelligence agency DST, Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire, testified that he considers Mr. Abdallah a "little chief" at best, not FARL's overall head.

## British court lifts gagging order

LONDON (AP) — The high court on Wednesday lifted the gagging order it imposed on a journalist who revealed information about a secret British spy satellite project. Judge Charles McCullough also waived a second injunction ordering journalist Duncan Campbell to preserve documents about the project.

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# Syrians and Hizbollah head for showdown

## Carbomb kills 2 after pro-Iranian militants bury 18 slain in Syrian drive

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A carbomb exploded in a Shi'ite Muslim suburb on Wednesday after pro-Iranian extremists buried 18 slain militants and vowed revenge against the Syrian army that "deliberately massacred them."

Police said at least two people were killed and 10 wounded in the carbomb blast at the Raml Al Ali suburb near the main highway to Beirut's international airport. The blast occurred at 6:30 p.m., only four hours after the burial. Explosive experts said the car, which went off a 100 metres from a mosque, was laden with an estimated 50 kilograms of explosives. Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene and police said the casualty toll was incomplete.

## Iraq threatens to end truce in 'war of cities'

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq on Wednesday threatened to call off a two-week truce in bombing attacks on Iranian cities and Iran claimed it killed or wounded an entire Iraqi brigade in a thrust east of the southern Iraqi port of Basra. Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iranian forces broke through Iraqi defences near an artificial lake some 10 kilometres east of Basra, Iraq's second largest city. The agency claimed 900 soldiers were killed or wounded in fighting near the Fish Lake Tuesday and 700 other casualties fell Wednesday.

Iraq had said its 3rd and 7th army corps repulsed new Iranian attempts to advance toward Basra, a city of half a million people, this week. Iran captured some Iraqi territory in a January offensive, but the attack bogged down. Iraq renewed accusations that Iran has resumed shelling attacks on Basra, saying such a move

## Tower report reportedly rejects Reagan's claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — A report to be released Thursday concludes that the White House sought to trade arms for American hostages and rejects President Ronald Reagan's claim that the United States was trying to open contacts to moderates in Iran, a source on the investigation commission said Wednesday.

The Tower Commission, however, was unable to make major strides in explaining how profits from the arms sales apparently were diverted to Nicaraguan contra rebels, the source said. "Our evidence (of the funneling of arms sales proceeds to the contras) is primarily circumstantial," said the source, who spoke on ground of anonymity. The commission's inability to question former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, an aide to Vice Admiral Poindexter, made it virtually impossible for the three-member board to substantially add to what is known about the contra connection, the source said.

Mr. Reagan was consistently maintained that he did not swap weapons for hostages, and that the contact with political elements in Tehran was a quest to warm relations with Iran. While pursuing a global strategy of seeking ties with Iranian political elements "may have been in the president's thoughts," the source said, "we didn't accept the notion of it being the driving force. That does not appear in fact to be what drove the programme."

Reached Tuesday night, former Senator John Tower, the head of the commission, said only: "I'm not going to confirm or deny anything... I wouldn't

slowly beat their chests rhythmically and shouted: "Slowly, slowly, you Zionists — Hizbollah is on its way."

Other marchers shouted "Death to Syria," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel."

Hizbollah said 18 of its militants were among 26 people killed when Syrian troops took over Hizbollah's west Beirut stronghold in Basta Tuesday night. The dead included three Amal militiamen and five women, it added.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah group has grown since 1982 into an organisation with at least 1,200 well-armed fighters.

Hizbollah distributed a video film showing the bullet-ridden bodies of men sprawled on the

(Continued on page 3)

## King to visit Bonn next week

BONN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein will visit Bonn on March 5 for talks with West German government leaders, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the president's office said in a statement. The King and Her Majesty Queen Noor are currently on a private visit to Austria.

Mr. Genscher met Tuesday in Bonn with Chadi Klibi, secretary general of Arab League, who welcomed the 12-nation European Community's endorsement Monday of an international Middle East peace conference, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said. It said Mr. Klibi and Mr. Genscher had "a comprehensive" discussion on Middle East political and security issues.

King Hussein has made several trips to Europe in recent months partly to enlist support for the idea of an international Middle East peace conference.

## Mubarak said to have turned down U.S. visit

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has rejected an American suggestion that he visit Washington this month, partly because Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is in the United States, a leading editor says. Another reason for the refusal was a recent U.S. proposal for easing the burden of Egypt's military debt that Mr. Mubarak found unsatisfactory, wrote Makram Mohamad Ahmad, editor of the weekly Al-Mussawwar. Ahmad is known to be close to the president.

His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview with the Financial Times earlier this month, indicated that he had also turned down a similar invitation. In the Al-Mussawwar article, Ahmad said: "Washington had wished Mubarak would go (to the United States) before the end of February in the hope that a three-way meeting could be arranged there, with Shamir attending before ending his visit."

"Cairo sent a polite and clear message of apology. It said that President Mubarak could not be in Washington starting Feb. 25 but that he was keen on meeting with President Reagan at some other time in the near future, with adequate advance preparation conducive to positive results."

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday that the United States was confident that King Hussein and President Mubarak would visit Washington despite their anger over the Iran arms scandal.

Both leaders have expressed fury in public over the Iran arms sales, made while U.S. spokesmen were insisting an arms embargo was in place.

The two leaders have also said in public that the scandal thoroughly undermined U.S. credibility in the Middle East.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman insisted on Wednesday discussions were still going on dates for the visits.

## Gorbachev warns rivals, backs more democracy

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev made a fresh attack on opponents of his drive for political renewal on Wednesday, declaring that more democracy was essential to stop the Soviet Union lapsing into stagnation. Speaking at a congress of 5,000 Soviet trade unionists in the Kremlin Palace, of Congress, Mr. Gorbachev said: "This is how we put the question — either acceleration, or inertia and conservatism. There is no other choice."

Developing a common theme of his recent speeches, Mr. Gorbachev said his domestic opponents included some honest people who had not learned to change their habits but there were others who were explicitly dissatisfied with his policies.

Mr. Gorbachev said the United States and its allies, fearing the Soviet economy would be revitalised under his leadership, were seeking to tie up the Soviet Union by maintaining the arms race and international tension.

"Imperialism and the forces of reaction are trying at any price to put a brake on our movement ahead and force us to remain on the rails of military confrontation," he said, blaming the United States for deadlock in arms control talks.

Mr. Gorbachev emphasised several points by departing from a prepared text issued by the official news agency TASS.

Indicating the intensity of the debate on his proposals for more inner party democracy, he said a meeting of the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee last month had been postponed three times before it was finally convened.

"If we had limited ourselves at the plenum merely to stating that

## Unofficial contacts under way at U.N. on international conference on Middle East

Combined agency despatches

A SENIOR official of the United Nations has started unofficial contacts with the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council towards convening an international conference on the Middle East, reports said Wednesday.

The Qatari News Agency (QNA) said the contacts made by Marrack Gouling, the U.N. official charged with handling the issue of the proposed conference, were aimed at preparing a report to be drawn up by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

There had been no official comment by any senior U.N. official on the endorsement of the conference idea by the European Community (EC) on Monday.

QNA reported what it described as a general interest in U.N. circles towards convening the conference and that the EC move was seen as a major step towards clearing obstacles.

EC Commissioner Claude Cheysson was quoted Wednesday as saying the Palestine Liberation Organisation should attend the proposed Middle East conference.

The Al Qabas daily quoted him as noting that the EC statement Monday in Brussels reaffirmed Europe's commitment to the 1980

Venice Declaration that the PLO should be part of any Middle East peace negotiations.

"I think the PLO should sit at the negotiating table," Mr. Cheysson said.

"Despite the current differences between the PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the PLO continues to be the representative of the Palestinian people from an Arab point of view."

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## Peres begins Cairo visit saying it is too early to decide coalition's future

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday it was too early to decide whether his Labour wing of Israel's coalition cabinet should serve as a support for direct talks with Arabs.

Mr. Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud bloc, said in the United States, where he is on an official visit, that Mr. Peres would have to submit to Israel's cabinet any agreements he made in Cairo.

Likud opposes the international conference idea.

The conference proposal has the backing of many Arab states, the European Community and the Soviet Union, while the United States no longer opposes it. Mr. Peres, who is to meet with President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday, saying he hoped they

could reach an accord to open the way for the proposed conference.

"We've agreed on many points, but there are still two or three points that remain to be agreed upon," Mr. Peres said. "I am here to see if there are alternatives or if there are ways or means to overcome difficulties."

Mr. Peres met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on Wednesday evening for talks expected to focus on Palestinian representation in a broadly based conference.

Mr. Peres brought a list of specific names of Palestinians "acceptable" to Israel, a senior government official close to Mr. Peres told AP. There were reports in Jerusalem that the Egyptians would present a list to Mr. Peres.

## Two truckloads of supplies reach Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (R) — Two U.N. trucks entered a besieged and hungry Palestinian camp in Beirut on Wednesday with enough food for 10 days — 16 tonnes of flour and milk powder, witnesses said.

About 100 pale and haggard refugees, mostly women, old men and children gathered round the trucks when they arrived, said Lenart Nygren, field relief services officer for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

It was the second convoy to reach Bourj Al Barajneh. Iranian ambulances raced UNRWA flour and milk powder into the camp through a gauntlet of machinegun fire on Feb. 13 after a gunman shot out the tyres of U.N. trucks trying to get food in.

Bourj Al Barajneh and two other Palestinian camps in Lebanon have been under siege for four months by the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Amal leader Nabih Berri said last week the siege was lifted. Wednesday's convoy, as on Feb. 13, was matched by an equal delivery of U.N. food to Shi'ites in the Amal-controlled southern suburbs, Amal sources said.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told reporters in Baghdad on Wednesday the Amal sieges and a big Syrian troop deployment in Beirut would not force the defenders of the camps to lay down their arms.

He said he wanted to work out a new formula with the Lebanese government to cover the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat was asked as a news conference whether the PLO was prepared to sign an accord with the Lebanese government.

He replied: "We are prepared for an understanding with the Lebanese legitimacy (government) for a new formula that responds to the current circumstances of the Palestinian existence in Lebanon, provided actual guarantees exist for the same."

He said the weekend Syrian intervention in west Beirut aimed at "supporting Amal's aggression on the camps, now in its fifth month."

Mr. Arafat said he had contacted the camps by radio on Wednesday from his Baghdad office and had been told that Amal and Syrian forces were shelling them.

with an open mind. He said it would be absurd to refer to previous timetables proposed by both sides, and that the talks were resuming with a clean slate.

Afghanistan had proposed the withdrawal be completed in four years, while Pakistan spoke of four months. Recently, persistent reports indicated the two sides were moving closer.

The talks that began Wednesday cap a flurry of diplomatic and political activity by Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the Soviet Union and the United States since Kabul proclaimed its prog-



## Gnehm named to high post in State Department

AMMAN (J.T.) — Edward W. Gnehm, currently U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman, has been named deputy assistant secretary of defence for international security assistance in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, a press release issued by the U.S. embassy said.

In his new position, Mr. Gnehm will be responsible for military assistance programmes from countries stretching from Morocco to Bangladesh, it added.

Mr. Gnehm has served in Amman as minister-counselor since 1984. Previously he was in the office of the secretary of state as director of the secretariat staff. He served as deputy chief of mission in the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, North Yemen, and as chief of the U.S. embassy liaison office in Riyadh. He has also had assignments in Damascus, Beirut, Tunis, Kathmandu and Saigon.

Mr. Gnehm graduated from George Washington University with B.A. and M.A. degrees. He also attended graduate studies at the American University.

## Both sides 'open minded' in Afghan talks in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — Afghanistan peace talks resumed on Wednesday with the U.N. mediator saying both sides assured him they would be open-minded about the last issue blocking a settlement — a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Diego Cordovez, a United Nations under-secretary general, told a crowded news conference that he told the leaders of the delegations from Pakistan and Afghanistan that the talks had reached a point of "opportunity you should not miss."

He said the troop-withdrawal problem was the only one remaining after almost five years of negotiations met separately with Mr. Cordovez shuttling between them.

"If that blank is filled, we will have a settlement," he said. But he warned that it remained a very difficult issue and said he was concerned that both sides deeply distrust each other.

However, Mr. Cordovez said, both promised they would examine the timetable question



# Baptist group leaves east Beirut reluctantly to obey U.S. order

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — A group of U.S. Baptist missionaries arrived here from war-ravaged Lebanon Wednesday declaring in a joint statement that "all of us feel that our hearts have been torn out and left in Lebanon."

The group, 11 adults and six children, said they left to conform with a Washington order asking all U.S. citizens to leave Lebanon.

"We do not fully understand the intention of the government in forcing us to go," their statement said.

"If it is to protect us, we are dismayed, because in gaining protection, we have lost our right to obey God as we understand his will for us," it added.

"We would go back on the first boat if the United States government allows us to go back," James Trimble, the senior member of the group told newsmen at this Cypriot port as he stepped off

the ferry boat from Lebanon.

"We have lived in Lebanon for a long time, on the eastern side of Beirut where it has been safe. We really don't understand why we are leaving," he added.

The Falangist-controlled east sector of Beirut has been safer compared with anarchy-ridden mainly Muslim west Beirut, plagued by the kidnapping of foreigners and violent clashes between rival militias fighting for its control.

Washington banned travel to Lebanon by U.S. citizens and ordered all Americans to leave the country last month in the wake of the kidnapping of four professors, three Americans and

an Indian who also is a legal resident alien of the United States.

"It can be dangerous in Lebanon but we were not in any personal danger on our side, though it is something else on the west side," said Mark Louis Sacco, another of the missionaries from Gilroy, California.

"We could go out to church, attend weddings and other functions and we have been doing these things all the time. We have not been in any personal risk or danger," he added.

Sacco spoke holding the hand of his 6-year-old daughter, Annika, who clasped a doll firmly to her chest. Her 4-year-old brother Aaron played with the family terrier as the family stood in line waiting to clear immigration control.

The missionaries left Lebanon a couple of days after Syrian troops fanned out in west Beirut

in an effort to end the fighting between the rival opposition militias and to restore order to the city.

The joint statement by the Baptist missionaries said some of them had been in Lebanon for 30 years, and some for only two.

It added that if the order to leave Lebanon was intended "to punish Lebanon, then we are sorry, because Lebanon is dying and punishment is not appropriate for the dying."

"The dying need urgent and intensive care. We believe that our educational and spiritual and benevolent work is part of that care. We are sure that punishment, revenge and isolation are not the answers to Lebanon's problems."

"We ask the American people to understand that Lebanon is a hostage... fractured and battered and helpless to free itself from forces that are leading it toward certain death."

## Reagan suggests memory lapse on Iran deal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has appeared to acknowledge he might have forgotten whether he gave advance approval for the first arms deliveries to Iran.

At the same time, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that Mr. Reagan's embattled chief of staff, Donald Regan, will discuss his possible departure from the job after a report on the Iran arms scandal is issued on Thursday.

At the start of a White House meeting with black leaders, Mr. Reagan was asked by reporters about his recollection of approving an Israeli arms delivery to Iran in 1985 — months before he signed a secret order authorising the clandestine sales.

After initially declining to answer, Mr. Reagan replied: "everybody that can remember what they were doing on Aug. 8, 1985, raise your hands."

Noting that no hands had been raised, he added, "I think it's possible to forget. No one's raised any hands."

Questions about Mr. Reagan's memory were raised Tuesday by a New York Times report that the president has been unable to say with certainty if he gave advance approval.

## McFarlane leaves hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former presidential aide Robert McFarlane is resting at home after checking out of Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he was treated following a drug overdose, his lawyer said.

Leonard Garment said Mr. McFarlane, a key figure in the Iran-contra controversy, spent the weekend at a family cabin and then officially checked out of the hospital on Monday.

He said he was rushed to the hospital two weeks earlier after an overdose of tranquilizers that police sources described as a suicide attempt.

"He's just going to try to go back to work and resume a normal life," said Mr. Garment, "as much as the various investigations will allow."

Mr. McFarlane will be talking to the special prosecutor investigating the controversy, as well as the House and Senate committees looking into it, Mr. Garment said.

## 'U.S. gave Iran troop locations of Iraq'

NEW YORK (R) — Intelligence information which Washington supplied to Iran included information about troop locations of its Gulf war foe Iraq, CBS Television has said.

CBS said that Pentagon witnesses have told the Tower Commission investigating the Iran-arms scandal that as part of the arms sale to Iran, Tehran got what was supposed to be secret U.S. data on Iraqi troop locations.

The witnesses told the commission, headed by former Texas Senator John Tower, that the information may have helped Iran score battlefield victories,

CBS said. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger told Congress earlier this month that Washington gave intelligence information to both sides in the Gulf war, including "substantial" information to Iraq.

He also acknowledged supplying information to Iran, with which the United States severed relations as a result of the 1979-81 hostage crisis, in which 52 Americans were held captive.

Spain denies arms exports

Meanwhile in Madrid Prime

Minister Felipe Gonzalez denied press reports that Spain had authorised exports of arms to Iran. "There is no Iranage in Spain. We have not authorised any arms export to Iran. Let this be on the record," he told parliament in a state of the nation debate.

Mr. Gonzalez was replying to opposition questions on a report in the leading independent daily El Pais earlier this month.

El Pais said the government authorised state and private arms manufacturers to sell arms worth \$280 million to Iran through Libya and Syria, despite a ban on sale of arms to countries at war.

## North sues to halt independent council's probe

WASHINGTON (R) — Attorneys for fired White House aide Oliver North have filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law empowering a special prosecutor to investigate Col. North and the Iran arms scandal.

The suit, filed in federal court here, alleges that prosecutorial authority belongs exclusively to the executive branch of government and that the law violates the separation of powers set forth in

the U.S. constitution.

Col. North was the only publicly identified target when a special three-judge court two months ago appointed Lawrence Walsh, a former top Justice Department official, to investigate criminal wrongdoing in the shipment of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

Mr. Walsh, a former judge who has been issuing subpoenas and granting immunity as part of his

fast-moving investigation, defended the law.

"The... statute has received extensive and careful study and we are satisfied of its constitutionality. We shall oppose the action," Mr. Walsh said in a statement.

The Justice Department, which is expected to defend the constitutionality of the law in court, also had no comment.

## Split Palestinian families urge Soviets to link fate to Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — Palestinian families split by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza appealed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday to link the emigration of Soviet Jews to a solution to their plight.

The Committee for Family Reunification delivered a letter to Mr. Gorbachev at the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv, saying thousands of spouses and children were separated from relatives in the occupied territories by Israel's refusal to allow family reunions.

A spokeswoman for the occupation administration, Captain Elic Shazar, said Israel had allowed more than 50,000 Palestinians to return to the area in the wake of the 1967 war but had

## Mahdi: New charter with Egypt cancels previous agreements

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi told parliament that last week's "brotherhood charter" cancels all agreements signed with Egypt under deposed President Jaafar Numeiri.

It was not immediately clear whether the cancellation included a defence treaty signed in 1976 by Numeiri and the late President Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Mahdi said Tuesday the agreements were cancelled because Numeiri's regime was "illegal."

He however did not specify any of the agreements which he said were replaced by the "brotherhood charter" but was believed to be referring to an "integration charter" signed in Khartoum in 1982 by Numeiri and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The prime minister was reporting on his five-day visit to Egypt in which he and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki signed the "brotherhood charter." His remarks were broadcast over the official Omdurman Radio.

"The 'brotherhood charter' replaces all previous agreements and institutions according to the new principles included in the charter," Mr. Mahdi said.

Mr. Mahdi meanwhile said his government would continue to seek extradition of Numeiri who is living in Egypt as a political refugee to put him on trial.

The extradition of Numeiri is a popular demand and we are seeking that by all possible

means."

He said Sudanese officials who accompanied him during his last week's visit to Cairo "had stated that straightforwardly."

Egypt has been resisting Sudanese demands for Numeiri's extradition, saying it would be a violation of the Egyptian constitution.

The "brotherhood charter," negotiated at Sudanese behest, is a diluted version of the "integration charter," once considered a guarded step toward merging the two countries into one.

The cancelled charter was a framework for a 10-year programme of close coordination in the economic, social, defence and other fields. It established several institutions including a joint parliament.

Since Numeiri's ouster in April 1985, the "integration charter" became a sore spot in the two countries relations. Mr. Mahdi's government which came to power a year later, charged that it was tailored to Numeiri's own interests and lacked popular support.

Mr. Mahdi said Sudan maintained relations with Egypt because the Sudanese-Egyptian geopolitics "has its necessities and the circumstances around us had changed considerably as the Egyptian government is speaking of an international conference to settle the Middle East question and regards the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

All Arab countries, with the exception of Sudan, Somalia and Oman severed relations with Egypt after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Jordan and Djibouti restored relations with Cairo later.

Mr. Mahdi said the membership of Egypt to the Arab Medical Union and the Arab Bar Association were restored in addition to its re-admission to the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

However, he said Sudanese political parties had not demanded breaking off relations with Egypt.

"If such presence was existing we had created an apparatus in the 'brotherhood charter' to settle such problems," Mr. Mahdi said in answering a question on alleged presence of Egyptian troops on the northern common border.

Rebels deny camp destroyed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army on Tuesday denied government reports that troops destroyed a major southern rebel camp. They claimed a victory for guerrilla fighters.

Radio SPLA, a clandestine station monitored in Nairobi, said rebels seriously injured 52 government troops and destroyed a tank, a transport vehicle and an army truck in a battle last Sunday near Pibor, in Upper Nile province.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 77311-19  <b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 15:30 ..... Koran 15:50 ..... Programme Review 15:55 ..... Tom Sawyer 16:20 ..... Children programmes 17:00 ..... Buckleberry Finn 17:35 ..... Local Health programme 18:00 ..... Teaching French 18:30 ..... Local contests programme 19:30 ..... News programme 19:50 ..... Programme Review and varieties 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 20:30 ..... Arabic series 21:25 ..... Tomorrow's programmes 21:30 ..... Varieties 22:30 ..... Arabic film 23:00 ..... News Summary in Arabic 23:10 ..... Film continued  <b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> 10:00 ..... Le Cirque de Demain 1986 19:00 ..... News in French 19:15 ..... La Vallée des peupliers 19:30 ..... News in Hebrew 19:45 ..... World Sports 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 20:30 ..... Paul Oued Shouk 21:10 ..... Remington Steele 22:30 ..... News in English 22:30 ..... Feature film, "Heat and Dust" — Julie Christie  <b>RADIO JORDAN</b> 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 980 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19  07:00 ..... Light Music 07:30 ..... Newsdesk 08:00 ..... Morning Show 10:00 ..... News Summary 10:05 ..... Morning Show Contd. 11:00 ..... Pop Session 11:30 ..... Hillville: The story of Motown 12:00 ..... News Summary 12:05 ..... Now Music 13:00 ..... News Summary 13:05 ..... Pop Session 14:00 ..... News Bulletin 14:10 ..... Instruments 14:30 ..... Just a Minute 15:00 ..... Concert Hour 16:00 ..... News Summary 16:05 ..... Instruments 16:30 ..... Old Favourites 17:00 ..... The Musical in Review 17:30 ..... Pop Session 18:00 ..... News Summary 18:05 ..... Special Feature 18:30 ..... Music 19:00 ..... Newsdesk 19:30 ..... Ode with a Star 20:00 ..... Evening Show		<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>  <b>EXHIBITIONS</b>  * An exhibition entitled "Bezilikao" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).  * An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Olkin from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).  * An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).  <b>BRITISH ROCK</b>  * The British Rock Group "Furniture" will be performing at the Palace of Culture on Thursday at 7.00 p.m. and on Friday at 4.00 p.m.  <b>FILMS</b>  * A feature film entitled "Cat Ballou" at 7.30 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.  * An Italian film entitled "Ottello" at 7.00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.  <b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>  Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7 American Centre .. 64371 British Council .. 64173 French Cultural Centre .. 63614/8 Goethe Institute .. 64193 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 62049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63977 Haya Arts Centre .. 66195 Hussein Youth City .. 66151 Y.W.C.A. .. 64173 Amman Municipal Library .. 63611 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 84355  <b>MUSEUMS</b>  "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. 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Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meet at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir), Tel. 811295.  <b>PRAYER TIMES</b>  06:46 ..... Fajr 06:25 ..... Sunrise/Dhuha 11:49 ..... Dhuhur 15:43 ..... Asr 17:52 ..... Maghreb 18:51 ..... Isha		<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>  This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.  <b>ARRIVALS</b> <b>ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS</b> (Terminal 1)  09:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ) 09:20 ..... Cairo (RJ) 09:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ) 10:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:40 ..... Islamabad, Karachi (RJ) 10:50 ..... Amman, Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 10:55 ..... London (RJ) 11:35 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ) 12:30 ..... Athens (RJ) 12:50 ..... Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ) 13:45 ..... Rome (RJ) 14:55 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 15:00 ..... 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German mark ..... 185.27 / 187		<b>EMERGENCIES</b>  Amman governorate ..... 691228 Amman Civil Defence ..... 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid ..... 271293, 273133 Civil Defence Jericho ..... 770733 Civil Defence Dair Alla ..... 57306 Ambulance ..... 193, 175111 Amman downtown fire brigade ..... 40 First Aid ..... 630341 Road Bank ..... 778300 Civil Defence Rescues ..... 611111 Fire headquarters ..... 622090-3 Police rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters ..... 63914 Traffic police ..... 624881 Electric Power Co. 6363614, 624881 Municipal water complaints ..... 7711258 Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08)533000-5  <b>NIGHT DUTY</b> <b>AMMAN:</b> Dr. Abdul Rahman Najjar ..... 775050 Dr. Majed Karyal ..... 781786 Salam Pharmacy ..... 636730 Neirokh Pharmacy ..... 723672 Khalid Pharmacy ..... 778533 Firas pharmacy ..... 661912 Salah pharmacy ..... 649026 Al Fardows pharmacy ..... 787336  <b>TAXIS:</b> Wahda taxi ..... 641833 Khaldoun taxi ..... 664888 Bassam taxi ..... 811857 Abli taxi ..... 821127 Heyam taxi ..... 817411 Balestam taxi ..... 845120 Bahrain taxi ..... 773034 Mashout taxi ..... 896743  <b>IRBID:</b> Dr. Mohammad T'ani ..... 243711 Jordan pharmacy ..... (-) Shara's pharmacy ..... (-)  <b>ZARQA:</b> Dr. Fayez Abdul Aziz ..... 953299 Al Adham pharmacy ..... (-)	
<b>FOR FRIDAY</b> <b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 77311-19  <b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 10:00 ..... Koran 10:20 ..... Programme Review 10:25 ..... Cartoons and children programmes 11:00 ..... Top Box III 11:30 ..... Friday's Prayer 12:30 ..... Sport Magazine 14:00 ..... Religious Seminar 14:30 ..... Arabic Series 15:00 ..... Variety programme 16:00 ..... Eye Eyre 16:40 ..... Arabic Series 18:00 ..... Arabic Series 18:30 ..... Viewer's choice (Arabic) 19:30 ..... News Programme 19:50 ..... Programme Review 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 20:30 ..... A programme on the West Bank		<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>  <b>EXHIBITIONS</b>  * An exhibition entitled "Bezilikao" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).  * An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Olkin from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).  * An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).  <b>BRITISH ROCK</b>  * The British Rock Group "Furniture" will be performing at the Palace of Culture on Thursday at 7.00 p.m. and on Friday at 4.00 p.m.  <b>FILMS</b>  * A feature film entitled "Cat Ballou" at 7.30 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.  * An Italian film entitled "Ottello" at 7.00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.  <b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>  Royal Cultural Centre .. 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<b>RADIO JORDAN</b> 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 980 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19  07:00 ..... Light Music 07:30 ..... Newsdesk 08:00 ..... Morning Show 10:00 ..... News Summary 10:05 ..... Morning Show Contd. 11:00 ..... Pop Session 11:30 ..... Hillville: The story of Motown 12:00 ..... News Summary 12:05 ..... Now Music 13:00 ..... News Summary 13:05 ..... Pop Session 14:00 ..... News Bulletin 14:10 ..... Instruments 14:30 ..... Just a Minute 15:00 ..... Concert Hour 16:00 ..... News Summary 16:05 ..... Instruments 16:30 ..... Old Favourites 17:00 ..... The Musical in Review 17:30 ..... Pop Session 18:00 ..... News Summary 18:05 ..... Special Feature 18:30 ..... Music 19:00 ..... Newsdesk 19:30 ..... Ode with a Star 20:00 ..... Evening Show		<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>  <b>EXHIBITIONS</b>  * An exhibition entitled "Bezilikao" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).  * An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Olkin from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).  * An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).  <b>BRITISH ROCK</b>  * The British Rock Group "Furniture" will be performing at the Palace of Culture on Thursday at 7.00 p.m. and on Friday at 4.00 p.m.  <b>FILMS</b>  * A feature film entitled "Cat Ballou" at 7.30 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.  * An Italian film entitled "Ottello" at 7.00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.  <b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>  Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7 American Centre .. 64371 British Council .. 64173 French Cultural Centre .. 63614/8 Goethe Institute .. 64193 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 62049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63977 Haya Arts Centre .. 66195 Hussein Youth City .. 66151 Y.W.C.A. .. 64173 Amman Municipal Library .. 63611 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 84355  <b>MUSEUMS</b>  "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Zuh, Jabbal Lawideh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.  <b>CHURCHES</b>  St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 62490. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lawideh, Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terzastava Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Lawideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622366. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678906. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 77131. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 77521. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meet at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir), Tel. 811295.  <b>PRAYER TIMES</b>  06:46 ..... Fajr 06:25 ..... Sunrise/Dhuha 11:49 ..... Dhuhur 15:43 ..... Asr 17:52 ..... Maghreb 18:51 ..... Isha		<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>  This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.  <b>ARRIVALS</b> <b>ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS</b> (Terminal 1)  09:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ) 09:20 ..... Cairo (RJ) 09:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ) 10:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:40 ..... Islamabad, Karachi (RJ) 10:50 ..... Amman, Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 10:55 ..... London (RJ) 11:35 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ) 12:30 ..... Athens (RJ) 12:50 ..... Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ) 13:45 ..... Rome (RJ) 14:55 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 15:00 ..... 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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Decree approves envoy's appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Mr. Talal Hikmat as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

## Nine die on the roads in one week

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine people were killed and 118 others were injured in 250 road accidents which occurred in the Kingdom over the past week, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). The department said in a statement that the past week's accidents registered a drop of 1.57 per cent compared to the previous week.

## 21,606 students to sit for secondary exam

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 21,606 students will sit for the secondary stage admission examination at the end of the 1986-87 scholastic year, according to Dr. Mahdi Al Karezi, director of education in the Greater Amman region. He said that these students will complete the third preparatory class at government and private schools in the country by May 1987.

## Majali graduates special force trainees

KAFREIN (Petra) — A ceremony has been held at Kafrein in the northern Jordan Valley region on Wednesday for the graduation of a new batch of the special police force who underwent training in security operations. The group included participants from the badia and border police force. Towards the end of the ceremony, the graduates received awards and diplomas from the Public Security Department Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali. The ceremony was attended by senior police officers.

## People's Army cadets complete training

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The first batch of employees in Sabha district who have been recruited in the People's Army graduated during a ceremony held in Mafraq on Wednesday. The 45 participants were given training in the use of light arms, first aid and civil defence operations. Among those attending the graduation ceremony was Mafraq Governor Fayez Abbadi.

## Arab doctors elect secretary general

KHARTOUM (Petra) — Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), has been elected secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation (ADF). His election came during the ADF's higher council meeting which opened here on Friday. Dr. Khreis won by 19 votes to 12 votes for the other candidate, Dr. Abdul Rahman Abul Kull from Sudan. The council also elected half of the number of the ADF's secretariat members whose mandate had expired and decided to "re-admit" Egypt to the federation. It was also agreed to hold the federation's next general conference in Egypt in 1988 and the following one in Iraq in the following year.

## Abu Nuseir to have its own health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry will open a health centre at Abu Nuseir housing estate for the benefit of residents and neighbouring regions, according to a ministry statement issued on Wednesday. The statement said that the Housing Corporation has assigned a building in the housing estate to house the new centre. The Housing Corporation earlier announced it was holding contacts with the Health Ministry to provide health services to the newly-built housing estate. A regular bus service has been provided along with schools and other basic services.

## Flurry of activity at financial market

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday witnessed noticeable activity in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) where the volume of traded shares rose to nearly 900,000, with an overall value of JD 897,199. Prices of a large number of shares rose remarkably, especially those of the chemical industries which witnessed the sale of 178,020 shares worth JD 362,979, the aluminium industry which witnessed the trading of 65,530 shares worth JD 95,794, steel industry 38,600 traded shares worth JD 81,766, and petrochemicals, 65,600 shares worth JD 56,897.

## Furnish your ears with music

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A series of concerts being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and organised and sponsored by the British Council in Amman, will feature the British rock group Furniture. The first performance was on Wednesday at Yarmouk University campus, the second on Thursday Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Palace of Culture/Sports City, and the third and last concert is on Friday Feb. 27 at 4:00, same venue.

Although Furniture's music is not exactly the typical sort of rock music, it is closer to rock than to any other style. During a press meeting at their hotel in Amman, the five members of the group declared they like to think of their music as "very personal and free of any classification." Listening to their album which included the hit "Brilliant Mind," comes as a confirmation of their statement. Strongly characterised lyrics and melodies made a high quality album. Furniture write and play a kind of music which, while being very modern, reaches far beyond the temporary success of the charts. "Shake like Judy" is another beautiful track on their LP.

Two young girls and three young men playing good, solid and long-lasting pop or rock

music (unavoidable label) — that's what Furniture is all about: Sally Still on bass guitar, Maya Gilder on keyboards, Hamilton Lee on drums, Tim Whelan on guitar and vocals and last but by no means least, Jim Irvin on lead vocals.

## MUSIC PREVIEW

There is a pleasant feeling when one meets Furniture for the first time. In spite of their 'modern look,' the band members are definitely not to be compared to some new wave or 'punk' British musicians. At the press conference they all were dressed in dark shirts and suits, black and navy blue, but none had extraordinarily coloured hair or shocking external appearance. They were very friendly and replied with sincerity and simplicity to the reporters' questions. Asked what were their musical influences, they said that jazz was certainly one of them but no particular style had strongly influenced the group. Jim also explained that they like to sound very "English," even in their accent.

The arrival of Furniture in Jordan is a first, in the sense that no other known British rock group has ever performed in the country. Amman's music lovers will also be treated to guest appearances by Mirage, the Jordanian pop group who will be backing Furniture.

## Committee completes 5 volumes of building code

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher technical committee preparing the national building code has completed work on five volumes which have been endorsed by the government and will be put into practice in carrying out building projects undertaken by the private and public sectors, Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh announced on Wednesday.

He said that the five volumes cover regulations and legislation pertaining to quality control, specifications, construction, design and public safety.

The committee, which will be compiling a total of 24 volumes in the course of preparing the full code, has also undertaken work on such areas as insulation, fire protection and central heating, the minister noted.

He said that the committee has approved five other codes covering steel construction, caustic materials, sanitation, garbage disposal and air conditioning.

The committee, he added, will convene on Thursday evening at the Ministry of Public Works to make a final review of completed codes before referring them to the concerned authorities.

According to Mr. Hawamdeh, the Building Research Centre (BRC) at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently helping with the process by providing studies on reinforced concrete, scaffolding, vacuum, spacing between buildings, air conditioning, building materials and electrical systems in buildings.

According to the minister, the building code is being worked out upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein and is being done in coordination with the RSS and other concerned authorities.

## Mental health conference to be held in April

AMMAN (Petra) — The third Arab conference on mental health is to open in Amman on April 14 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the conference's president Dr. Adnan Takriti announced here on Wednesday.

Dr. Takriti, who is also president of the Jordanian society of psychiatrists, said at a press conference that Jordanian participants will submit several working papers to the conference dealing with mental health and a compendium of terms used in psychiatry. The conference will give psychiatrists from different Arab states an opportunity to exchange information and experiences

## An analytical approach to running municipal affairs

By Janice Turner  
Special to the Jordan Times

LONDON — The uninitiated may wonder why the British continually talk about the weather, but the day I met Mr. Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh was a case in point. First thing that morning, the sun blasted down through the frosty air raising the temperature to a healthy five degrees, but by lunchtime the unsuspecting Londoner was battling across Trafalgar Square in a snowstorm. But the weather, said Mr. Rawabdeh, reminded him of when he first took up his appointment as mayor of Amman back in 1983. At that time Amman experienced particularly bad weather and the snow severely damaged the roads, causing his first mayoral headache.

"I asked the maintenance department how much it would cost to repair the roads, and they said JD 3 million. But our annual budget was only JD 600,000, so it appeared that it would take five years to repair all the roads, though by the time we had got halfway through, the first roads would need repairing again," the mayor said.

Mr. Rawabdeh analysed the situation and worked out it would be cheaper to hire his own work force to do the job and under council control the cost of repairs then plummeted to JD 200,000.

This general principle of sound financial management coupled with a logical, no-holds-barred analysis of problems has reaped results, as his strong confidence in the people of Amman to deliver if given half a chance. "Now all small projects — below JD 50,000 — are executed by the locals themselves rather than putting out everything to outside tender. This way, cost have been halved," he said.

"Take our nurseries for example," he continued. "Every year it used to cost us JD 250,000 to import trees. So we set up our own nurseries. This put an end to the problem of trees coming in

that couldn't handle the change in climate. So, amongst other things, it reduced wastage. Now our annual bill is JD 10,000."

This analytical approach also solved the problem of cleaning up the city. "Amman used to be quite dirty. It turned out that all the cleaners worked the same shift. So after they finished work the streets just got dirty again during the evening. So we reorganised the staff into a three shift structure, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The 'night gangs' come onto the streets after the working day ended, so the streets were clean the next morning."

Mr. Rawabdeh felt that the city's biggest problem was planning. This was caused by several factors, particularly the huge waves of Palestinian refugees in 1948, 1967 and the high birth rate and economic problems since. "In 1948 Amman's population was 50,000, and estimates then said it would reach 200,000 by the 1980's. But because of these factors, our population is already over 1 million." He said that after the first major influx of refugees, the city's infrastructure could not cope and people tended to build anywhere they could. "So in 1985 we began working on a master plan to be implemented fully by 2005, to bring the situation under control. The policy guidelines should be ready in a report by mid-June," he said.

The mayor is obviously enthusiastic and enjoys his work and when asked why, he said: "It's most satisfying to actually see your achievements in front of you. Also, there is such a wide field of operations and the autonomous nature of the council gives you the freedom to go ahead and tackle the problems. But in my job, most of all, you're in contact with every person in the city. I like to be accessible, but even after I came to London, I started getting phone calls from Amman asking me about some problems." He says he has no plans for the future other than wanting to see through the fruition, the reorganisation of Amman.

## Jordanian firm completes \$55m complex for Iraqi paper

BAGHDAD (Petra) — A Jordanian engineering firm has completed work on a \$55 million complex for the Iraqi Al Thawra newspaper. The 13-floor complex is one of the most modern buildings in Baghdad and is fully equipped with advanced technological appliances and modern facilities, according to the engineer in charge of the project. He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency Petra, that the complex of nine buildings has a conference hall and a theatre

seating 400 persons, a cinema screen designed to relay direct television coverage and facilities for simultaneous translation and interpreting in nine languages. The complex, he said, includes editorial offices supplied with monitors for following up on events and doing script writing, a paging system, an automatic internal control system for opening and closing doors and another for delivering press material, a computer hall and a library of 20,000 books and publications.

## Hmoud visits agricultural stations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud has visited the need for nurseries to try to find new strains of fruit trees which could be grown in different parts of the country.

Speaking during an inspection tour that took him to a number of nurseries producing saplings in the north of the country, the minister also urged agricultural specialists to guide farmers to adopt the most effective methods and techniques in pruning, protecting fruit and forest trees and introducing measures to stop sheep and cattle from grazing cultivated lands.

During the tour, the minister was briefed on the volume of saplings being produced at the nurseries and the extension services offered to farmers and fruit tree growers.

The minister visited Al Hussein, Al Faisal, Ishtafa and Al Baqoura agricultural stations and nurseries in the course of his tour and he heard problems encountered by the agricultural extension service staff in their work. The director of the Al Faisal agricultural station told the minister that his nursery annually produces 300,000 improved olive saplings.

## Irbid Municipality implements long-term strategy to deal with problem of rats

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A campaign to eliminate borders of rats in Irbid is beginning to show some results, said Dr. Hamzeh Anaqreh, head of the health affairs section to Irbid Municipality.

A month and a half ago, 70 per cent of the western district in Irbid was infested with rats, said Dr. Anaqreh. He believes that the rats which plagued the area had arrived from Europe and parts of the Arab World in packing materials. "The rats were concentrated mainly near the central market where most trade movement takes place," he said. Norwegian rats, the type in Irbid, invaded homes and stores, and caused considerable material losses. Only one incident of a child being bitten was reported, said Dr. Anaqreh, however this report was not confirmed.

This information was determined during the first part of a campaign to eliminate the rats. The city was divided into blocks and eight teams led by a health inspector from Irbid Municipality conducted studies, questioned the inhabitants and checked

## W. Bank, Gaza need more aid, Dudin says

By Leila Deeb  
Reuters

AMMAN — The Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip need all the financial aid they can get, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said Wednesday.

"The West Bank and Gaza are in a position to take not only the funds we can make available with Jordanian programmes and joint committee funds, but also any other contributions would be useful," Mr. Dudin told Reuters in an interview.

He was speaking a week after the first meeting since 1985 of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee set up in 1978 to supply Palestinians under Israeli occupation with \$100 million a year in institutional and private project aid.

The drop in oil prices, the Iran-Iraq war and inter-Arab disagreements stopped funding until December, when Saudi Arabia paid its third share for 1985.

But the \$9.5 million payment fell short of needs, although Jordan has a one billion dollar five-year development programme for health, education and other projects.

Mr. Dudin said there were no indications that more funds



Marwan Dudin

would be coming from any Arab country. Joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations which toured Arab countries in search of funding failed in their efforts.

"... we feel it is because of shortage of cash in countries, more than absence of desire to contribute, that has stopped the funding," Mr. Dudin said.

He said the Saudi contribution had been allocated to projects including a West Bank higher education council and non-profit private hospitals.

homes. Dr. Anaqreh explained that although the area has been sprayed with poison for the past 12 days, bringing the problem completely under control required a comprehensive campaign.

The second part of the campaign is the health awareness stage under which health inspectors, who received training at the Greater Amman Municipality, inform the public about sanitation and the diseases which could be spread by the rodents.

## Collecting rubbish

To reinforce the health inspectors, rounds are conducted in the cleansing stage to check for rubbish inside and outside homes. "Rubbish which may be a breeding ground for the rodents must be disposed off. To simplify matters and to make sure that the inhabitants comply, we ask them to place the rubbish outside their homes and the municipality will collect it," said Dr. Anaqreh.

The eradication phase encompasses the whole city of Irbid to ensure that the rats will not continue to breed, since one female

rat can produce between 2,000 to 10,000 rats a year, he continued.

The fifth and most important part of the campaign is, in Dr. Anaqreh's opinion, the follow up stage. Inspection visits and questioning the public will continue in the area to see if the rats have reappeared "until we reach the two per cent internationally accepted level of rodents in a city," he said.

To eliminate the rats, a poison called Bromodiolon Red is being used. The poison is produced locally by the Greater Amman Municipality. Contrary to previous reports, Dr. Adnan Abdul Majed, head of the department for the eradication of rodents and insects at the Greater Amman Municipality, said that they did not withhold the poison from Irbid because of financial disputes between the two municipalities. "In fact, when the rats appeared we sent them (Irbid) one tonne and 200 kilograms of poison," said Dr. Abdul Majed. Dr. Anaqreh added: "Fifteen days ago we asked the Greater Amman Municipality for an additional 1,200 kg of Bromodiolon Red."

## Syrians and Hizbollah head for showdown

(Continued from page 1)

others to South Lebanon to elude a Syrian effort to free them.

In a dispatch from Paris, the daily Al Qabas newspaper said Anglican church envoy Terry Waite was being held a hostage and was among the captives moved to new hideouts. But it did not say whether he was being held at the embassy in the Hay Lija neighbourhood.

That neighbourhood is one of only two west Beirut districts in which the Syrian army has not deployed yet.

But Syrian army soldiers set up checkpoints in adjacent areas. Soldiers were seen Wednesday manning a checkpoint 200 metres south of the embassy and another 300 metres north of the eight-storey building.

Al Qabas attributed its report to well-informed Western, American and Syrian sources.

The newspaper did not say which hostages have been moved to the Iranian embassy. It also did not specify where in South Lebanon the others were being held.

It said Tehran and Damascus launched "urgent consultations" on the issue as the Syrian force began deploying in west Beirut.

International media have cited Hizbollah militants as the possible captors of some of the 26 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon. The organisation has strongly denied any links with the abduction of foreigners.

A Kuwaiti newspaper reported Wednesday some of the foreign hostages had been moved to the Iranian embassy in Beirut and

Sunday.

It said this was the purpose of a 24-hour visit by Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Doust to Damascus this week.

"Instructions have been sent to Brig.-Gen. Gbazi Kanaan, the Syrian army's intelligence chief in Beirut, to do his utmost to secure the release of all Western hostages, or at least some of them," the newspaper said.

It quoted the sources as saying Damascus notified the American, French, British and Iranian governments before it sent its troops into Beirut.

"The Syrians informed the U.S. administration through the American embassy in Damascus on Friday about their plan to dispatch forces to maintain security in the Lebanese capital," it quoted American sources as saying.

It quoted a ranking Western source as saying that Syria hoped to free Mr. Waite in particular to pave the way for restoring ties with Britain and for the return of U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton to Damascus.

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Eduskuntavaalien ennakkoonestys Jordaniassa asuville Suomalaisille alkua 28.2.1987 ja päättyä 5.3.1987. Aarnestys tapahtuu Suomen Kunnissa Paakonsuulivirastoissa päivittäin klo 9.00 - 13.00. Tarkeimpia tietoja antaa Rya Terttu Wegelius, puh. 642467 tai 637117 Suomen Kunnissa Paakonsuulivirasto, Amman Jordania.

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 Editor and Director  
**GEORGE S. HAWATMEN**  
 Editor and Director  
 Editorial and Advertising Offices  
 Jordan Press Foundation  
 University Road, P.O. Box 4711, Amman, Jordan  
 Telephone: 667124-667125  
 Telex: 2407 ALKAL JO  
 Facsimile: 661242  
 The Jordan Times is published daily except on public holidays.  
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Spare Afghanistan please

FACTIONAL struggle to seize and maintain political power plunged Afghanistan into a bloody battleground seven years ago. That tragedy was compounded by the fact that it soon turned into a playground for superpower politics. The intervention of Soviet forces in 1979 in support of the Afghan government prompted the U.S. to lead support to factions attempting to overthrow the government. With the two superpowers taking opposite sides, an internal political struggle for power became internationalised, and superpower interests and manoeuvring largely contributed to the escalation of the civil war that killed several thousands and made many million refugees.

An end to the civil war and return to political normalcy may come about provided the superpowers can agree to implement the proposed four-point U.N. peace plan: support for the rebels to stop; the return home of some five million Afghan refugees now in Pakistan and Iran; Washington and Moscow to oversee and guarantee the plan; and a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. While U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez said at the outset of resumed Afghan peace talks in Geneva on Wednesday that the first three points have been agreed, on the fourth there remains disagreement.

For Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev the Afghan quagmire appears to be an unwanted legacy bequeathed to him by his predecessors. He has given enough indications to cooperate in finding a speedy solution to the Afghan problem. One was his goodwill gesture of agreeing to pull out 5,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan last year. Another is his full support for the Afghan government's declaration calling for a national reconciliation which would pave the way for the creation of a coalition government with the participation of all important political forces in Afghanistan. But the guerrillas opposing the government have rejected such a programme and the U.S. is backing their stance. This means that more and more U.S. funds and sophisticated weapons will be made available to the Afghan guerrillas. It would also make the Soviets who are now inclined to pull out of the Afghan quagmire, to harden their resolve in meeting the challenge of the Afghan guerrillas who are based in Pakistan.

A U.S. official calling Soviet-Afghan peace moves a deception stated recently: "We believe that a settlement to the Afghan conflict will have to be consistent with U.N. resolutions and result in the prompt, complete, and irrevocable withdrawal of Soviet troops. No more time is required for such withdrawal than it took for the initial Soviet invasion. And any settlement will have to have the broad support of the Afghan people; a communist front government is thus not acceptable... If Moscow truly wants peace, it must show this by deeds. As for us, we will stand by our Afghan friends until just peace is attained." It is not that Moscow needs peace now any more than the U.S. but what is required is that Afghanistan and its people should be left in peace. For this the two superpowers, now that they are embroiled in the situation, must extricate themselves in order to allow the Afghans to determine their own destiny. An instant Soviet troop withdrawal as the U.S. demands seems to be unrealistic; the four month period suggested by Pakistan for Soviet withdrawal appears to be impractical; a four year period requested by the Soviets for the troop withdrawal seems too long a period. A mutually acceptable time frame should be devised to implement the plan. In any case, the Iranian suggestion of convening a conference of the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Iran and the Western-backed guerrillas appears to be redundant.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Success for Jordan's diplomacy

THE European Community has wound up a meeting in Brussels by foreign ministers of its 12 members with a declaration supporting the idea of an international conference on the Middle East question. The declaration said that the conference would constitute the best and most suitable forum for the achievement of a just solution for the problem. This declaration clearly reflects Jordanian diplomacy's success in enlisting world nations support for sound ideas to resolve this problem which has become a source of direct threat for security and stability in Europe. Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi's talks with European ministers have no doubt contributed to the issuance of this declaration which reflects a responsible and wise stand. Furthermore, this declaration which places the United States and Israel in further isolation from the rest of the other world nations, clearly manifests Europe's realisation of means with which to protect its own interests, and at the same time help promote the cause of world peace. This declaration does not only underline the community's determination to adhere to the Venice Declaration of 1980 but also makes clear that out of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, four are now in favour of the international conference. We can only express deep appreciation to the European Community for its understanding of the grave situation in the Middle East, and its serious effect on world peace; and hope that the United States will now follow Europe's example and follow the course that can help this region enjoy real peace.

### Al Dustour: King's efforts succeed

JORDAN has welcomed the European Community's declaration of support of the idea of an international conference to find a just solution for the Middle East problem. Jordan realises the importance of this declaration which crowns Arab and Jordanian efforts, and also appreciates this new European stand. Jordan also believes that this European stand serves as one further step towards convening the proposed conference and opening more opportunities for its success, despite the negative stands of the United States and Israel. For this reason we believe that Europe's new stand is significant, and we also believe that the declaration was largely in response to King Hussein's relentless efforts worldwide to rally world nations' support for the idea of the conference which serves as a forum for establishing real peace. Thus, we can see that Jordan's relentless efforts have now borne fruit and succeeded in securing support of Eastern and Western countries, except for the United States, for the Arabs' drive to re-establish security and peace. With the community's declaration the road to the conference has become almost paved, and it is now left for the Arabs to follow up further steps and intensify more efforts for the sake of making it come true. The Arabs should now concentrate their time and effort for urging the United States to abandon its rejection of the conference's idea and join the majority and the world community in a genuine attempt to bring peace to the Middle East.

# Sweden's policy of neutrality and the Arab World

By Lars Lonnback

Mr. Lonnback is ambassador of Sweden in Jordan. The following is a lecture he delivered at the World Affairs Council (WAC) on Feb. 24, 1987.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

THE title of my lecture is not crystal clear. There are not many direct links between the two. But there are several similar concerns that beset both neutral Sweden in the north of Europe and Jordan, an Arab Nation in the Middle East.

— We are both small countries in an area of high and maybe growing tension and superpower influence.  
 — We have both a great need for security, for peaceful development inside our countries and peace with our neighbours.  
 — Since we have not enough strength of our own — no one has — we also need international laws and regulations, arbitration in case of conflicts, international cooperation, etc.

**Jordan and Sweden are both small countries in an area of high and maybe growing tension and superpower influence.**

In my introduction, ladies and gentlemen, I shall therefore try to address my points to two main questions:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages for a neutral nation in our troubled world?  
 2. What can, possibly, other small nations learn from the Swedish experience with neutrality?

But first I shall give you some basic facts about my country and Sweden's policy of neutrality. Our close contacts with the United Nations and its mediation and peace efforts will be mentioned. A particularly positive development for neutral Sweden was the outcome of the Stockholm Conference recently.

I shall also give you Swedish views on the Middle East and other problems — because neutrality does not in our view condemn us to silence.

And finally I shall try to answer, briefly, my own two questions, before harnessing myself to be able to answer yours. 2. So, ladies and gentlemen, let me first say a few words about our historic ties. Sweden is, compared to the Middle East, a young country. When we think of the Middle East we think about the cultural roots from Egypt, the Middle East, Greece and Rome that are ours. And like so many other nations we took our religion from here.

When the wild Vikings from the North, and from the year 500 A.D. started sailing or rolling their long ships down to here, they made extensive trading with your forefathers.

Next year, dear friends, I therefore hope to be able to 'invite you' all to see an impressive exhibition in Amman of Arabic coins found in Sweden, dating from that period. Experts say that such coins can hardly be found even in the Arab countries today.

But, naturally, through the centuries contacts have been few and mostly indirect. It is only with the coming of modern communication that we today can note a strong increase in the mutual interest for better ties, political, economic and cultural. 3. Now Sweden today. A few basic facts. Sweden is a large long-stretched country — twice the size of Great Britain — reaching from the latitude of about Scotland to far above the Arctic circle. The eight million Swedes are mainly living in the southernmost third of the country. This is, of course, a great mistake on their part, because the best part, my own home country, is in the far north.

Most of what you have heard about cold and dark winters in Sweden is true. But the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic is warm and soon the sun will return. In the months of May, June, July and August, Sweden is exploding in flowers and intense vegetation, bright nights and pleasant living almost like in Jordan in March-April-May.

4. Coming then to Sweden's foreign policy we can see on the map how Sweden is situated far up in the north, on the very borderline between East and West in Europe. Our history and our traditions have given us our neutral foreign policy but maybe more than anything else geography has. The big power of the Soviet Union is next to our shores, and when Stalin negotiated with Finland about their contested frontiers and Russian access to the Atlantic he said: "No one can change geography". On the western side we have the NATO powers with their increasing concern today over Soviet missile systems that could tip the balance — and vice-versa. So when Churchill's "Iron curtain" fell through Central Europe, Sweden was very close to that border. But Sweden refused to join either side. Why?

Sweden is not alone among the European nations to have abstained from taking part in the two alliances. Australia, Finland, Ireland and Switzerland have done the same. Why are they not taking sides? The answer is that Switzerland is formally bound by an international agreement dating back to 1815 to remain permanently neutral. So is Austria, forced after World War II to accept, in 1955, neutral status. The other two have special reasons. Ireland wouldn't like to be in the same pact as Britain, and Finland couldn't join a pact against her formidable neighbour the Soviet Union.

**We recognise the national rights of the Palestinian people and we have also recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.**

That leaves Sweden in a special position. Why is Sweden, someone may ask, refusing to take a stand for the Western ideals, democracy and liberal society that we belong to? Was Sweden really neutral during World War I and II? And in the future, how could Sweden possibly avoid a war and for that matter, avoid the responsibility to join forces with friendly nations?

If you can bear with me, ladies and gentlemen, I'll give you our answer, although it consists of many parts.

The guiding policy of Swedish foreign policy is nonparticipation in alliances in peacetime aiming at neutrality in the event of war.

This means that Sweden is not a member of any military or political alliance nor do we coordinate our foreign policy with anyone. The idea is to assure everyone that Sweden will never constitute a threat. But if someone threatens us or attempts to use our territory this will be repelled by all the means at our disposal, by our relatively strong military force.

Why then nonparticipation in alliances?

Because there is a broad consensus in Sweden that this has been a good policy for Sweden to safeguard our independence and keep our democratic system of government. This policy which is supported by all parties from left to right has also kept us out of wars for more than 170 years, since the Napoleonic war. Finally, this policy has contributed to the high degree of stability that now reigns in the northern part of Europe.

Historically our policy of neutrality can be dated back to the early 19th century. Our king then, the former Napoleonic Marshal Bernadotte, in 1834 wrote a letter to Russia and to Great Britain saying that Sweden intended to stay neutral in one of the conflicts between the two big powers. This letter has been regarded as one of the starting-points for our independent neutral policy. At the time, Sweden, tired after long wars, decided to relinquish old ambitions of taking Finland back — lost in 1809 — and to be content with our position on the Scandinavian peninsula.

So, Sweden is a special case. We have formulated our policy ourselves and no treaty regulates it. We rely on the confidence and trust which our policy has created during these years. But we also trust our own defence system. We have a big army with compulsory service for all men, we have a modern air force and we try, although with some problems, I admit, to keep intruders from our very long coastline.

Well, we — and the world — make jokes about those strange submarines in the Baltic. You have heard of Whiskey on the rocks, or whatever their names are.

**The guiding policy of Swedish foreign policy is nonparticipation in alliances in peacetime aiming at neutrality in the event of war.**

But seriously, the submarine threat has also demonstrated increased tension and superpower build-up in northern Europe. We have a strong defence system, but defence systems somehow never seem to be enough anymore. Sweden has for her part long ago sought security on a wider scale, in common agreements and in international solutions.

5. This is where our extensive commitment to the United Nations comes in. I won't go into detail about how this happened. But to a large extent our policy of neutrality made it necessary for us to seek international reassurances. Also our neutrality made us available for U.N. functions.

In this part of the world you have, through the years, been able to study at close range a number of United Nations functions, mediation efforts, peace-keeping operations, observation jobs, refugee activities, etc. Many nations have taken part, but due to our deep-rooted commitment Sweden has often had the opportunity to be involved. I only need to mention the list of our most prominent mediators, Bernadotte, Hammarskjöld, Jarring (whom I met personally in October in Stockholm before I came here — he says he has formally not left the job).

Then the late Olaf Palme — in four days from now we will commemorate the anniversary of his tragic death — he worked hard, in vain it seems, to do something about the Gulf war, and still his close aide Jan Eliasson is standing by, ready if the secretary general would need him.

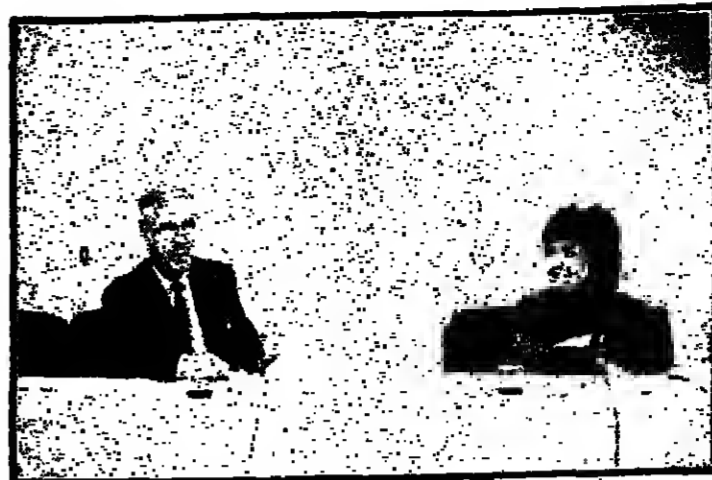
We also have sent tens of thousands of U.N. troops to various tasks in the Middle East. Now latest to the risky and dangerous job in the UNIFIL in South Lebanon.

Swedish officers have served and are serving as observers in various functions here. Sweden is one of the main contributors to UNRWA. All of this stems from our involvement in the U.N. which in turn comes from our policy of neutrality and our commitment to international mediation, law and order.

6. But now I have been talking so loudly about our policies that you have already noticed the final criteria set for our policy of neutrality.

It does not condemn us to silence in international affairs.

By taking an independent stand and playing an active role in



Sweden considers His Majesty King Hussein's peace efforts of great value. Relations between Sweden and Jordan are very good, cordial and friendly in all fields.

the United Nations we try to support the struggle for independence, economic and social equality and the promotion of peace. This independent stance will cause some resentment from time to time but will, we hope, in the long run strengthen Sweden's credibility as an independent nation which in case of war would not swing from side to side. There is thus no contradiction between an active foreign policy and non-participation in alliance.

Sweden's criticism of various interventions by the superpowers should also be seen as support for efforts to gain national independence. By doing so we claim that we strengthen our own right to remain independent and neutral. Sweden was early out supporting the independent states of Africa. During the Vietnam war Sweden angered the USA by criticising U.S. involvement. In the same manner Sweden has criticised the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea, U.S. threats against Nicaragua and naturally Israeli occupation of Arab land and incursions into Lebanon.

7. In its policy on the Middle East issue Sweden has been guided by all the central resolutions of the United Nations from the partition plan, the creation of Israel to Resolutions 242 and 338. Every state in the region, including Israel, should have the right to live within secure and recognised borders.

We recognise the national rights of the Palestinian people and we have also recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO information office in Stockholm functions well as a good liaison office and Eugene Maklouf recently saw the prime minister.

Continued occupation of the Arab territories and Israeli settlement policies in these territories are not acceptable and contrary to international law.

Sweden also supports the idea of an international conference on the Palestine issue with participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all parties concerned, including the PLO. PLO and Israel should accept each other as legitimate negotiating partners.

Throughout all this Sweden considers His Majesty King Hussein's peace efforts of great value. Relations between Sweden and Jordan are very good, cordial and friendly in all fields.

Well, those are our positions on these subjects. Similar positions have been taken on other issues, normally through our work in the United Nations, a normal routine which goes well together with our policy of non-participation in alliances aiming at neutrality in case of war.

8. But, on a wider scale, this is of course not sufficient either to safeguard fully our independence. To do that, efforts must be made to avoid war altogether. This may seem, to many, total utopia. But this objective is nothing new for our time. It has been the hope for centuries, it has been written into the U.N. Charter and with more and more communication and international contacts this hope has been

strengthened. And with the nuclear holocaust hanging over our heads striving against wars and for peaceful solutions this is a compelling duty for us all.

So together with many other countries we participate in disarmament talks, even if they so far have produced little, especially concerning nuclear arms. Sweden favours a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe and we have been very active in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Allow me at this point, ladies and gentlemen, to briefly indicate to you what this Conference in Stockholm, which ended only last September, achieved, because it is a new development and because it hangs closely together with what I want to say about the possibilities for small nations to improve their security and position.

**We in Sweden have a strong defence system, but defence systems somehow never seem to be enough anymore. Sweden has for her part long ago sought security on a wider scale, in common agreements and in international solutions.**

bly reduce the risks of war. It also is an example of how neutral countries can play an active role in international negotiations.

The Stockholm Conference was held, as many of you know, in the context of the efforts in Europe, starting in Helsinki, Finland in 1975, to finally close the chapter of the Second World War. But not only that. The efforts also aimed at finding means of closer political, economic and human cooperation and contacts in order to avoid a new war.

All countries in Europe, except Albania, plus Canada and the USA — 35 nations in all — took part in Stockholm. They started in 1984, and in a gradually very complex negotiation between the various groups, East, West, Neutral and non-aligned (to which Sweden belonged) the main thrust of the conference, confidence-building measures were researched, discussed, negotiated, bargained and finally agreed upon.

What is then, in substance, confidence-building measures? Well, I can summarise in five points which are also to be found in the final document.

1. An agreement to refrain from the use of force in conflicts and rather use mediation and negotiations.

This was proposed by East and viewed with suspicion in West. Finally a text was adopted.

2. Information, verification and communication.

This chapter contains rules for prior information given concerning military manoeuvres, troop locations etc. The information given should also be possible to verify by on-site inspection. A telecommunication system is envisaged in this system.

3. Annual calendar, restrictive measures. Every year a specific calendar will be organised show-

Sweden support the idea of an international conference on the Palestine issue with participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all parties concerned, including the PLO.

ing all military activities in the future in Europe and surrounding waters above a certain size.

In this chapter certain agreements were also made concerning maximum allowed size for certain types of military units.

4. Prior notification of troops movements was one of the most difficult areas of the conference, but a reasonably good system was agreed upon.

5. Observers. The practical and political problems of allowing 56-observer teams to visit key military areas on a regular basis was also finally overcome.

Well, I don't want to prolong this lecture with any more details than this. I hope it has still given you a glimpse of a process that has started and which, *inshallah*, could lead us to a more stable and trustful situation in a continent that for centuries and lastly, only 40 years ago, was torn to pieces by horrible war.

9. But now, finally, back to the Swedish policy of neutrality. What are the disadvantages and the advantages?

Sure, many of you would list the disadvantages as most important. Being absent from alliance with other friendly nations, isn't that dangerous? Isolation, outside the protection of a military pact, and even criticism for not joining forces with your friends. Aren't all these factors great disadvantages?

Well, Sweden has had another experience. Unlike our closest neighbours Norway and Denmark, and a long line of other European small countries whose efforts to stay neutral ended in failure, Sweden has opted for a continuation of a policy that has, as I said, kept us out of war for 170 years and more.

That is really argument enough for a majority of Swedes. But then we note also other advantages: Independence, a greater freedom of action, larger opportunities for international involvement and contacts. A great degree of stability in northern Europe can be noted.

My second question was this: What can other countries, possibly learn from the Swedish experience?

I already said that Sweden's situation has been unique. Our particular geographical, political and historical experience make most comparisons impossible.

**In its policy on the Middle East issue Sweden has been guided by all the central resolutions of the United Nations from the partition plan, the creation of Israel to resolutions 242 and 338.**

My only answer would be, possibly, that international commitments and thus contributions to a better world order is not only fully compatible with independent and neutral foreign policy. This policy is also often a prerequisite for full involvement in international activities in support for the interests of small nations.

This is not least important in a world often dominated by superpower arrogance, ignorance or self-sufficiency. Against those powers we small nations can only join forces in international fora and, slowly, make them understand that also our viewpoints should be listened to and be counted. International law must be upheld and carried out.

Forgive me, ladies and gentlemen, for taking too much time. I may not fully adhere to the World Affairs Council's principle of "thought and achievement" but I can assure you, I did my best.

## Khartoum 'seeks edge' in bush war before talks with rebels

By Hamza Hendawi  
 Reuters

KHARTOUM — Sudan is reluctant to accept mediation offers to end civil war in the south, apparently reflecting Khartoum's desire to gain a military edge before any peace talks, diplomats say.

The government has, at most, cautiously welcomed offers by neighbouring Kenya, Egypt and Libya to mediate an end to its three-year-old conflict with Ethiopian-backed rebels.

The United States has expressed readiness to help find a solution and Britain, which ruled Sudan jointly with Egypt until 1956, says it will consider any request to assist.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, meanwhile, has stepped up his rhetoric against the rebels since they downed a

civilian airliner last August, killing all 60 people on board.

The incident, shortly after Mr. Mahdi held inconclusive talks with rebel leader Colonel John Garang, triggered calls by northern politicians to fight the rebels into submission.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by the U.S.-trained Col. Garang, took up arms in mid-1983 in a bid to gain more autonomy for the mainly Christian and atheist south from the predominantly Muslim north.

A senior diplomat said: "I think Sadeq (Mahdi) concluded that he should cut the SPLA down to a manageable size before he enters peace talks."

Mr. Mahdi recently called the rebellion "a foreign aggression in a Sudanese disguise" and warned of a fifth column in the north. This was a reference to Ethiopian

support for the SPLA and rebel sympathisers in the north.

Khartoum is also telling black African states the problem is an internal one caused by underdevelopment in the south, rather than one between black Africans and Muslim Arabs.

Foreign Minister Sharif Hindi said in a recent press interview that mediation offers by foreign countries would give more weight to the rebels than they deserved.

The SPLA has up to 20,000 men but assessments of their combat worthiness vary — from "a very disorganised lot," as one diplomat put it, to the more common perception of hardened bush fighters motivated by hatred of the north.

Apart from seeking more autonomy, the civil war was also a reaction to the south's division into three provinces by former President Jafar Numeiri, ousted

in a 1985 military coup.

Many southerners viewed the division as breaching a 1972 agreement which ended 17 years of civil war in the south and an attempt to weaken the two-million strong Dinka tribe's grip on the area. Col Garang and most of his men are Dinkas.

Numeiri's introduction of Islamic Law (Sharia) into Sudan, a nation of some 21 million people, in September 1983 was the last straw for non-Muslim southerners.

The diplomats said Mr. Mahdi's apparent resolve to achieve military gains before any peace talks could have resulted from pressure by senior army officers.

They said the armed forces, estimated at 50,000 men, did not have the strength of manpower to make substantial gains. But they had improved their logistics since

last September.

The May-September rainy season in the south makes roads virtually impassable and forces troops to retreat inside some dozen heavily-defended garrison towns in the south.

Ali Hassan Tajeddin, a member of Sudan's five-man Sovereignty Council serving as head of state, told Reuters security in the south has improved greatly in recent months.

But we ruled out a military settlement. "Such a settlement will have grave consequences," he declared.

Diplomats said they were puzzled a sharp decline in rebel activity during the current dry season and speculated that SPLA units might be regrouping for a major operation.

They said any government attempt to put military pressure on the SPLA was likely to force

the rebels to carry out sabotage acts at key facilities in northern towns.

The diplomats singled out the Roseires Dam on the Blue Nile, just north of Upper Nile and close to the Ethiopian border, as a likely target.

They said SPLA rebels had been active in the area in recent months. "It does not take much to blow up a dam and the moral impact of such an operation will be immense," one said.

The diplomats said, however, that Khartoum could commit more troops to the fighting without risking popular dissent in Khartoum or other big northern cities.

"The north is very sheltered as the army is mostly made up of men from the west, Nuba Mountains and the south. It is very rare when Khartoum mourns a son killed in the war," one diplomat said.

# Soviet space programme big, busy, effective

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union has become a spacefaring nation second to none.

In the last 25 years, 60 manned spacecraft have soared from the immense Baikonur Cosmodrome in Central Asia. Their occupants have logged 12 years of space travel. In contrast, the 35 manned missions sent up by the United States have resulted in less than five years of space travel.

The sustained drive to colonize space overshadows a far larger unmanned programme. Roaring aloft from Baikonur and two other sites, some 90 unmanned rockets a year give the Soviet Union a total launch rate five times that of the United States.

## U.S. budget compared

Behind this immense effort are some 600,000 people, equal to the U.S. space effort at its peak during the mid-1960s. They were supported by a \$22 billion budget in 1985, about the same as that of the United States, but probably double the U.S. commitment in terms of gross national product.

Like the United States, the Soviet Union has had its share of accidents and tragedies, including the death of at least five cosmonauts.

But nothing has deterred the Soviets in their crusade to conquer space, reports Thomas Y. Canby in National Geographic. "After each setback," says Canby, "the cautious Soviets withdrew into the murky secrecy of their system to correct their error, then emerged to resume a programme that, in most observers' opinions, shows far greater consistency than that of their U.S. rivals."

Compiled after two trips to the Soviet Union and visits to facilities seldom seen by westerners, Canby's report on the Soviet space programme is one of the most comprehensive ever presented.

Part of the reason for the current success of the Soviet programme is the different road it has taken toward the stars. The United States has emphasised development of the shuttle, a reusable system of space transportation. In contrast, the Soviets have pursued a manned presence in space stations known as Salyuts, and make the trip there and back in throwaway Soyuz spacecraft.

Unmanned space freighters resembling the Soyuz resupply the space stations, enabling the

Soviets to maintain them economically for years.

Mankind's permanence in space may begin with the Mir, Russian for "peace." Launched in February 1986, the Salyut-size Mir boasts improved control and operations systems, expanded crew space and — most significantly — a forward docking adapter equipped with five ports.

## Modules work wonders

The docking adapter on the

Mir accommodates robotic modules as large as the station itself. Like the space freighters, the modules can carry fuels, cargo and scientific gear. But they are also equipped with their own solar-energy systems, enabling them to operate independently in company with a space station.

The modules can serve as astronomical observatories, small industrial plants for processing alloys and pharmaceuticals, or greenhouses for producing food and oxygen.

In the offing is a powerful new Soviet heavy-lift rocket comparable to the one that lifted the U.S. Skylab. It will carry a module of a large space station that Western observers see replacing Salyut and Mir in a few years.

Such a booster would also launch the Soviet version of the space shuttle.

Military considerations dominate both the manned and unmanned Soviet space programmes. "Space stations play a definite

military role, with cosmonauts engaged in visual reconnaissance and development of strategic materials," writes Canby. "Two Salyuts — 3 and 5 — were dedicated to military tasks."

The unmanned military effort is even greater. More than a thousand payloads have soared into orbit from Plesetsk, a military facility set among forests, lakes and peat bogs 500 miles north of Moscow.

"Of the 98 missions in 1985, two-thirds were military," says Nicholas I. Johnson, one of the experts who analyses Soviet space activities.

Plesetsk also serves as a launch site for many of the 400 missiles tested each year — 40 times the average U.S. test figure.

## Quickly replace satellites

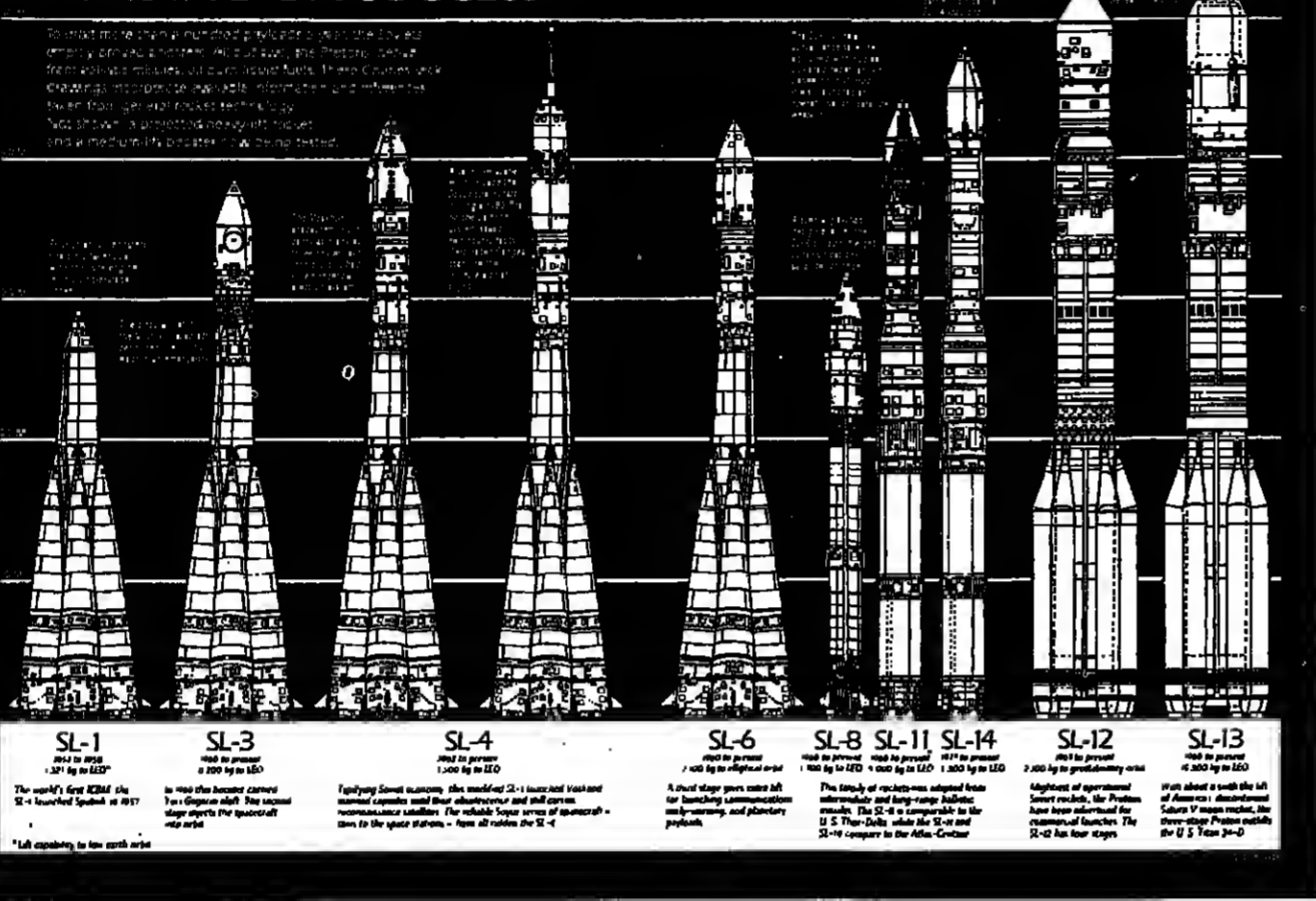
This rapid-fire launch capability confers an enormous military advantage. "If some of their satellites were knocked out, they could quickly replace them," observes Johnson. "Our smaller U.S. constellations of satellites would be easier to disable and harder to replace."

The Soviets already have a proven killer-satellite system. The United States has responded with an antisatellite rocket carried by an F-15 fighter; it was fired just three times before Congress put testing on hold in 1985.

Moving far beyond antisatellite device, the Soviets are already working on their version of the Strategic Defence Initiative, or "Star Wars." Besides ground-based laser systems, development is also under way on weapons using particle beams, radio waves, and kinetic-energy devices.

So who's ahead in the space race? At this stage it seems too close to call. As Canby concludes, "It's a race without a finish line, but they're running hard."

## BUILDING ON SUCCESS



## W. Europeans fascinated, but skeptical about Gorbachev reforms

By David Mason  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Western Europe is looking with fascination and some skepticism at the new openness in the Soviet Union, sensing it might signal deep changes in Soviet policies.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his team belong to a "new generation," said French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. "They are profoundly different from their predecessors."

Italian Premier Bettino Craxi called Gorbachev "a knowledgeable representative of a new generation of Soviet leaders who seems to me determined to bring about a change in the Soviet Union."

But an aide to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, while saying something new is happening in the Soviet Union, cautions: "Don't let's go overboard."

Gorbachev will have been in power two years next month. March 2 is his 56th birthday.

Government officials, diplomats, media commentators and others have been speculating on what direction the Kremlin leader is taking the Soviet Union. The guessing grew even more intense in mid-December, when Gorbachev ordered an end to the seven years of internal exile of physicist and dissident Andrei D. Sakharov.

The release of more dissidents, and Gorbachev's call for "further democratisation" and "a new approach" to human rights, have upset traditional thinking that basic change in the Soviet Union is unlikely.

Gorbachev's new policy follows a series of initiatives on nuclear arms control and accusations that President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars programme for a space-based missile defence is stepping up the arms race. There are indications in Western Europe that Gorbachev is getting through to public and government.

Martin Walker, Moscow correspondent for the liberal British Guardian newspaper, wrote of Gorbachev: "The Soviet people are slowly becoming aware that in his political vision, they have in the Kremlin a man who might have been arrested as a dissident had he uttered his views even five years ago."

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told the newspaper Bild: "A Soviet Union that opens up is a better partner for the West than a Soviet Union that remains closed. The West should take the Soviets at their

word."

Genscher said the West would be "well advised to welcome and promote the new developments... by showing a willingness through cooperation in all areas, through a constructive attitude in disarmament negotiations, and through new forms of economic cooperation."

But a word of caution came from Lord Chalfont, a staunch British Conservative, who wrote in the Conservative Daily Express that it was not the right time to make arms-control concessions.

"It is certainly not the time for the luxury of disarray in the West. It is a time, rather, for common purpose, realism and vigilance," Chalfont wrote.

Speaking of the Moscow forum on peace and disarmament, which concluded Monday, Claude Malhuret, human rights minister in France's conservative government, said it was a "super-show, a vast scenario with Gorbachev in the role of Tarzan of human rights and with renowned actors who came to applaud."

Malhuret applauded the release of some Soviet dissidents, but said that "human rights are enroled in the service of this cause, which is that of the unilateral disarmament of the West."

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe welcomed the improvement in human rights, but added "many abuses still exist."

The British foreign office said there was "nothing new" in Gorbachev's speech Monday to the Moscow conference. There had been some expectations of a compromise on arms control.

Instead Gorbachev accused the United States of trying to undermine the 1972 anti-ballistic missiles treaty to permit deployment of Star Wars.

And Gorbachev is sticking with his insistence that Star Wars must go before there can be movement on reduction of land-based missiles.

The conservative French newspaper Le Figaro said Gorbachev's advantage over his predecessors is his expertise as a media communicator.

"He can succeed only with the complicity of the public he is targeting, not that of his co-citizens... but that of the West, with our complicity," the newspaper added.

In London, Jeffrey Archer, former Conservative Party deputy chairman, told the American chamber of commerce Wednesday, "I never thought I would live to see a Russian leader outshine the West when it came to public relations."

## Remedies sought for population explosion ranging from gulls to monkeys

By Mitchell Zuckoff  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Skies off Cape Cod are clouded with gulls, ponds around the country teem with troublesome carp and trees in Florida bustle with monkeys, and it's all humanity's fault.

Just as neglect and excessive hunting have wiped out or endangered some species, putting animals into predate-free environments or giving them unlimited food supplies has resulted in animal population explosions.

Although experts say the pockets of overpopulation are not nearly as worrisome as the elimination of native creatures, they carry special concerns that often require action.

"Man has changed the environment to suit himself, and in most cases this has worked to the disadvantage of wildlife," said Sandy Sprunt, vice president for research at the National Audubon Society, an environmentalist group. "Now that we've created a problem, it's justified to do something about it."

Among the most drastic courses of action are sterilising or killing overabundant species to prevent further disturbances to the ecosystem.

Poison is one method under consideration to control gulls on the Monomoy Islands, a 2,750-acre national refuge off New England's Cape Cod area that has the largest gull population in North America.

When the islands became a refuge in 1963, there were five pairs of nesting gulls. Fuelled by a feast of garbage at the Cape's landfills, which are growing with the region's population, the great black-headed and herring gulls now number 20,000 pairs.

The voracious gulls have squeezed out rare species of shore birds like piping plovers and roseate terns.

"Our desire is not to eliminate the gull colony," said Curt Laffin, chief of planning for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's north east office. "Our desire is to allow the full range of species that use the islands to nest there."

A proposal calls for workers to mix poison with Margarine, spread it on bread and drop pieces in the gulls' nests. Experience indicates only the gulls will eat the bread, said Scott Melvin, zoologist for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Programme.

"It's manipulative wildlife management," he said, "but my feeling is that we're living in a very

man-dominated ecosystem, and we're deluding ourselves if we think we can put a fence around this refuge and walk away and let nature take its course."

The main opposition has come from officials at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, who say they would prefer destruction of gull nests and eggs, a proven method of bird population control.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was accepting comment on the plan, which also includes closing off nesting areas of threatened birds, herring gulls from the islands and requiring visitors to obtain permits.

Another human-created problem occurred at Silver Springs, Florida, tourist attraction that was home to several hundred descendants of the wild rhesus monkeys used in Tarzan jungle movies filmed there in the 1930s.

The movies fell from fashion, but the monkeys kept multiplying, becoming a harassment to tourists and residents.

In September, it was announced that 75 of the primates would be shipped to a Missouri animal farm. Some older females also were to be sterilised, with more to follow if no complications resulted.

The Florida Fish and Game

Commission said the monkeys' wanderings posed a threat up to 100 kilometres away. There were 17 reports of monkey bites from 1977 to 1984.

Overpopulation also has been a problem with the common carp, a bottom-feeder brought from Europe and introduced in the United States by the government in the 1800s.

"It quickly took hold all over the country and is regarded as a failure," said Steve Tauh, a fishery biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He said the fish stir up sediment and have limited appeal as table fare, even though they are considered a delicacy in some parts of the world.

One of the most well-known animal population explosions involves the starling, which thrives all over the United States since being imported from Europe in the 1800s.

Other birds, such as the English sparrow, also have experienced population booms in this country, as have gypsy moths, white-tailed deer, walking catfish and jackrabbits.

Federal laws such as the Lacey Act, enacted in 1900 and strengthened in 1981, bar importation of animals taken illegally in foreign countries.

## Randa Habib's Corner

### 'The day after'

A YOUNG lady has decided to open a mortuary in Amman to the greatest annoyance of her friends and relatives. This lady says that such a place is badly needed in Amman. She proposes to offer all kind of "services" in case of death, from women's black dresses to wreaths, and from thank-you notes to "locally made" coffins.

She says that death is a reality and that funeral ceremonies are a must. She argues that with the sophistication of life in the country a place that takes care of everything is a necessity.

The first problem she is facing, is finding a place to rent. The Municipality of Greater Amman has no objection to her project, but on the public's level no one has agreed to let her a house when they discovered her intentions. So far, she spent one month looking for a place to rent and everywhere she goes, she hears the same answer. "I can't allow my house to become a mortuary. It will certainly be bad luck for me." Her friends and relatives were worse, they simply told her they would never speak to her again if she goes on with this project. They think she is mad. They accuse her of wanting to take advantage of people's sorrows to make money. She told me that she purposely spread the rumour of her project to sound out people. She was amazed how pervasive the dismay was. She even received phone calls at home from people cursing her. Despite all these problems, she is still determined to go ahead with the project. She asks: "Why should people accept the display of bridal dresses and mourning clothes?" Death is as true, if not more than marriage, she maintains.

I suppose we have not yet learned to "live" with the reality of death.

## Huge cosmic dust clouds may tell how planets form

By Malcolm Ritter  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Huge, disk-shaped dust clouds recently discovered around some stars may be an early stage in the development of planets and hold the promise of revealing just how solar systems form, scientists say.

Scientists believe such clouds form solar systems over thousands of years as the dust congeals to create orbiting planets, said astronomer Stephen Strom of the University of Massachusetts.

Although no astronomer could watch the entire process, the universe seems to hold so many clouds that scientists may be able to piece together the story of planetary formation by studying clouds of different ages, Strom said.

The clouds are called disks because of their shape. They seem to be a common outcome when stars form, suggesting that "formation of solar systems may not be an uncommon event at all," Strom said in an interview at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

No planets have yet been spotted outside the sun's solar system, but Strom said that doesn't prove anything because planets are difficult to detect.

Scientists have long speculated that solar systems may come from cloudy disks, but, "for the first time, we're beginning to see direct astronomical evidence that indeed these things which have been hypothesised for so many centuries do indeed exist," said Frank Shu, chairman of the astronomy department at the University of California at Berkeley.

"It's really one of the frontier topics in astrophysics," Shu said in a telephone interview.

Astronomers have observed three disks so far, but the evidence is that there are many more, Strom said.

The disks are a couple of times larger than the sun's solar system, while others appear to range from

half the solar system's size upward.

Scientists have inferred the presence of 16 disks around young stars by analysing their effect on light from the "stellar wind," the outpouring of high-temperature matter from the stars, Strom said. A disk's evenly spread dust grains form an opaque screen that blocks some of that light.

As many as a dozen additional stars show evidence that they may also have disks," Strom said.

Shu said he believes disks may surround all stars of the "T Tauri" class, of which hundreds are known.

Astronomers from Cornell University and the California Institute of Technology reported last month that the gas and dust of one disk were orbiting the central star, as a forerunner of a solar system would be expected to do, Strom said.

Disks seem to be relatively flat near the star itself, flaring out toward their edges, so that they resemble a bowl seen in cross-section, Strom said.

Their dust particles appear to have already begun the clumping process that may culminate in planets, because the particles are probably almost 10 times as big as the dust that extends throughout the cosmos, Strom said. Still, some disk dust probably measures only about one-hundredth the width of a human hair.

Theorists suggest that to take the next step toward forming planets, the dust must settle into a very thin layer that will permit formation of bigger particles, Strom said.

In the disks seen so far, "something's going on to keep that from happening," such as turbulence from the stellar wind, he said.

Scientists may be able to observe the time of the settling-out because a disk's opaque screen would begin to clear, Strom said. Once the dust settles, scientists think, planets would take more than 10,000 years to form.

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# Steaua conquers Dynamo Kiev to win Super Cup

**MONACO (R)** — Surprise European Cup champion Steaua Bucharest of Romania added the European Super Cup and another prize scalp to its collection when it defeated Soviet star Dynamo Kiev 1-0.

Steaua overcame a Kiev side who displayed little of the brilliance which brought it the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

Gheorghe Hagi administered what turned out to be the killer blow with a free-kick in the dying seconds of the first half which took a deflection and left Dynamo goalkeeper Viktor Chanchov hopelessly stranded.

Steaua, who had relied on counter-attacks in the first half when fancied Dynamo had most of the play, played with much more confidence after the interval and imposed its own pattern on the game played Tuesday night.

Marius Lacatus was always dangerous on the Steaua right wing, exposing holes in the Kiev

defence in the second half, though he was reprimanded by Italian referee Luigi Angolin for histrionics after his second "dive" in the penalty box.

Striker Victor Piturca caused Chanchov anxious moments with probing headers and a powerful 83rd minute shot. But it was Hagi who was the most lethal, and he might have had a goal two minutes before his free-kick strike when he worked the ball round the Kiev defence and unleashed a shot which Chanchov was relieved to tip over his bar.

Dynamo enjoyed most of the first half possession, with cultured midfielder Pavel Yakovenko prompting the attack in which past and present Euro-

pean footballers of the year Oleg Blokhin and Igor Belanov sought in vain for a goal.

Blokhin created and received chances he would have made more of in his heyday.

Dynamo came closest in the 36th minute when Yakovenko nearly caught Steaua goalkeeper Helmut Stingaciu with a superb 30-metre drive.

Alexander Zavarov, unusually muted in midfield, gave a glimpse of his fine skills in the 68th minute when he juggled the ball on the edge of the box and fired a rising shot which almost fooled Stingaciu.

Belanov limped off five minutes into the second half and Zavarov was also replaced before the end.

But Steaua deserved its win, which was hailed by 400 Romanian fans in the crowd of only 8,000 who warmed up the atmosphere on a chilly night in Monaco's Louis II Stadium.

## Cologne club suspends Schumacher for claims of wide-spread dope use

**COLOGNE, West Germany (R)** — West German World Cup goalkeeper Harald "Toni" Schumacher was banned for one First Division match by his club Cologne after making allegations that fellow players take dope.

The ban means Schumacher will not play for his team in its away game against Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

The Cologne board said it might take further action against Schumacher but would first examine his claims, contained in a new autobiography, and wait to see what measures the West German Football Federation (DFB) would take.

Club president Peter Weiland said Schumacher's allegations were "damaging to the team."

Schumacher's claims of dope-taking, made in a book which is due to appear next month, caused a storm of controversy after extracts were published in the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel Tuesday.

Cologne also said it would carry out doping tests on all members of the team who faced Eintracht Frankfurt, both to protect the reputation of the club and its players.

"We owe it to our players," a



Toni Schumacher ... stirs storm with book

club spokesman said.

The DFB said it would look into whether action should be taken against Schumacher for bringing the game into disrepute after studying the book.

A decision on whether to take disciplinary proceedings will be made at a meeting on March 6, Schumacher's 33rd birthday.

West Germany's team manager Franz Beckenbauer, who received strong criticism in the book, said the goalkeeper would be named in his squad for a special training session next

month.

But he hinted Schumacher may well be dropped after a meeting between Beckenbauer and DFB chief Hermann Neubergner on Thursday to discuss the situation.

"What am I going to do if five national players say they don't want to play alongside Toni any more?" Beckenbauer said.

Current professionals playing in West Germany are split between those who describe Schumacher's allegations as nonsense and those who say they know of cases where dope was taken.

## Lendl advances before rain postpones 1st round of Int'l Players Championship

**KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R)** — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova's quest for her first 1987 singles title was postponed as the evening programme at the \$1.8 million International Players' Championship was rained out.

Navratilova, scheduled to meet Arantxa Sanchez of Spain in a first round match Tuesday night, has not played a tournament since losing to Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia in the finals of the Australian Open last month.

Men's fourth seed Yannick Noah of France was down 0-1 in the first set of his match with Claudio Panatta of Italy when the rains came.

Two other evening matches, featuring sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and American Paul Annacone, were also postponed because of the rain.

Earlier, the men's top two seeds, Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg posted easy straight set first round victories.

Lendl cruised past Chile's Richard Acuna 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, while Edberg, who has already reached finals three times this year, winning twice, was a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 winner over fellow Swede Peter Carlsson.

"It was good to get an easy match. I felt tired but I can get past the first few matches I'll be okay," the second-seeded Edberg said after advancing to the second round.

Second-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany, who has not lost a set this year, rolled past Manon Bollegraf of The Netherlands 6-1, 6-1 in just 49 minutes.

Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded 10th, dropped the first set but recovered to beat Brazil's Carlos Kirmayr 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 7-6.

Kirmayr broke Gomez in the ninth game, then held serve to take the opening set. But Gomez dominated the second and third sets, losing one game in each, and closed out the fourth set tiebreaker 7-4.

Ninth-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany was forced to three sets before beating Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in late afternoon action.

Kohde-Kilsch dropped the first set as she was broken in the fourth and ninth games. The West German broke Novotna's serve twice in the second set to

level the match.

In the decisive third set, the ninth seed outplayed the 20-year-old Novotna, easily winning 6-2 to advance to the second round, where she will face Australian Elizabeth Smylie, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over American Kathleen Horvath.

Unseeded South Africans Danie Visser and Yvonne Vermaak pulled off two of the day's biggest upsets.

Visser, ranked 85 in the world, ousted 14th-seeded Argentine Davis Cup member Martin Jaitre 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. The 95th ranked Vermaak, a semifinalist at Wimbledon in 1983, was a straight set winner over 15th-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia 6-4, 6-4.

Australia's Wally Masur displayed a solid serve and volley game to knock another seed from the draw. Masur eliminated 13th-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain in a see-saw battle 6-2, 6-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

But fifth-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden easily advanced past American baseliner Joany Levine 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

## Spinks may be stripped of IBF heavyweight title

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Michael Spinks probably will be stripped of his International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight championship by Friday, according to a published report.

The New York Daily News reported Wednesday that IBF President Bob Lee said he had received written notification from Spinks' manager, Butch Lewis, refusing the IBF's order to have Spinks face no. 1 challenger Tony Tucker.

Lee said Tuesday that the meetings of the IBF championship and executive committees, which will vote on vacating the title, will be finished "not later than Friday."

"I'm disappointed in the championship," Lee said, "but I guess it's time to say goodbye."

Lee said Tucker would probably be matched with the IBF's

no. 2 contender, James "Buster" Douglas, for the vacated title.

The Daily News said that after Spinks is stripped of the title, Lewis is expected to announce a June 15 bout for the "people's championship" matching Spinks and Gerry Cooney.

The bout cannot take place any earlier because the U.S. cable television network Home Box Office has an injunction barring Spinks from defending the IBF title against Cooney. But the loss of the title could free Spinks to take the bout, which could earn him upwards of \$3 million.

As part of the HBO heavyweight unification series, the IBF champion is scheduled to meet the winner of the March 7 bout between World Boxing Council champion Mike Tyson and World Boxing Association champion James Smith.

## Walsall forces replay with draw against Watford

**LONDON (R)** — Plucky Walsall produced a vintage English Football Association (FA) Cup performance when it held First Division Watford in a pulsating 4-4 draw.

The Third Division side refused to buckle an inch this enthralling fifth round replay at Watford and in the end it was the home side who was hanging on in the closing stages of extra time.

Walsall was given a great boost after just three minutes Tuesday night when Nicky Cross ran onto a Trevor Christie header to score.

And then with dogged defence it held that lead until first half injury time when Kenny Jackett equalised from a penalty.

The second replay, for the right to visit Arsenal in the quarter-finals, is at Walsall on Monday.

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## Pakistan lodges formal protest about condition of Indian pitch

**JAIPUR, India (R)** — Pakistan Wednesday sent an official letter of protest to the Indian Cricket Control Board over the state of the pitch in the third cricket test.

The letter followed a verbal complaint by the tourists when the umpire ruled that the wicket was playable. Tuesday's play was washed out and heavy rain also badly affected the pitch on the previous two days.

Pakistan skipper Imran Khan and manager Syed Naseer

Ahmed said the rules had been violated because sawdust was used to dry the rain-soaked pitch, changing the nature of the wicket.

Pakistan batted under protest, saying the pitch was unplayable and conditions for it was not the same as for the Indian team.

Naseer told reporters the protest dealt mainly with heavy seepage of rain water into the pitch because of faulty covers and the presence of sawdust on wet spots on the wicket.

Indian cricket officials have said sawdust was used to dry the outfield but strong winds carried it to the pitch.

Naseer said the condition of the pitch had changed drastically but Pakistan would refuse to play.

At the close of the fourth day Pakistan was 228 for six in reply to India's 465 for eight declared.

### American NBA roundup

#### Abdul Jabbar uses 'new' shot in Lakers' win

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Forget the sky hook and the stuff. Kareem Abdul Jabbar, the leading scorer in NBA history, has a new shot.

It's a 3-pointer.

"What can I say? The opportunity was there, so I took it," Abdul Jabbar said with a smile Tuesday night after making the first 3-point basket of his career in the Los Angeles Lakers' 97-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Abdul Jabbar, 38 years old and 7-foot-2, has scored more than 36,000 points, but had never gotten more than two on any shot until the second quarter against the Suns. With 55 seconds left until halftime, he grabbed a long rebound near the Lakers' bench in the corner and let fly.

The shot was good, ending Abdul Jabbar's lifetime 0-for-14 shooting on 3-point tries.

In other games, Milwaukee beat Indiana 120-114 in double overtime. Chicago defeated Atlanta 113-103. Utah routed Seattle 133-103. Denver trounced Houston 134-105. Sacramento

downed San Antonio 112-106. Portland trimmed New York 122-109 and Detroit beat New Jersey 120-112.

Bulls 113, Hawks 103

Michael Jordao scored 34 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and led a third-quarter spurt as Chicago beat visiting Atlanta.

Dominique Wilkins scored 22 points for the Hawks, who have lost four straight on the road.

Bucks 120, Pacers 114

Terry Cummings scored 24 points and Paul Pressey had 20 for Milwaukee.

Herb Williams scored 28 for the Pacers, but none after the third quarter.

Nuggets 134, Rockets 105

Lafayette Lever recorded his NBA-leading 12th triple-double of the seasons Denver defeated Houston.

Lafayette Lever finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists for Denver. Alex English added 29 points and Darrell Walker 23 for the host Nuggets.

Jim Petersen had 23 points for

the visiting Rockets, the second time in two nights he has scored a career-high.

Jazz 133, SuperSonics 103

Karl Malone poured in a career-high 38 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while John Stockton had 17 points and 13 assists to lead Utah over Seattle.

Dale Ellis scored 26 for the visiting SuperSonics.

Pistons 120, Nets 112

Adrian Dantley scored 32 points to lead Detroit past New Jersey. Buck Williams scored 23 points for the Nets, who have lost 19 of their last 22.

Trail Blazers 122, Knicks 109

Kiki Vandeweghe scored 34 points and Clyde Drexler had 30 in the Portland victory.

Jerome Kersey added 21 points for Portland while Patrick Ewing had 27 for the Knicks.

Kings 112, Spurs 106

Eddie Johnson scored 31 points to help Sacramento hold off host San Antonio. Mike Mitchell had 25 points for the Spurs.

### THE Daily Crossword by N.E. Campbell

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Homely volcano	1 In Fi
2 Corrosive	2 Consumed
3 Seismic waves	3 Deteriorate
4 Algerian city	4 Used as
5 Broad scarf	5 Croissant
6 Dies —	6 Hold back
7 Daylight	7 Swampy
8 Network	8 Vague clue
9 Endanger	9 Unarmed
10 BPOE member	10 Added to the
11 Portion	11 Location
12 Seasonal tree	12 Young goat
13 Oriental	13 Hard candy
14 Nurses	14 Give up land
15 Cold wind	15 Pieta's girl
16 In Fi	16 Large beast
17 Domingo and	17 Region
18 Tight con-	18 Scale flux
19 Seasonal	19 Beach area
20 Having wings	20 Deepot
21 Cuckoo	21 and off
22 Honor card	22 Rust, river
23 Record	23 Within the law
24 After-dinner	24 Vandalism
25 Phoenician	25 GWTW
26 Consumed	26 Whirl fluid
27 Deteriorate	
28 Used as	
29 Croissant	
30 Hold back	
31 Swampy	
32 Vague clue	
33 Unarmed	
34 Added to the	
35 Location	
36 Young goat	
37 Hard candy	
38 Give up land	
39 Pieta's girl	
40 Large beast	
41 Region	
42 Scale flux	
43 Beach area	
44 Deepot	
45 and off	
46 Rust, river	
47 Within the law	
48 Vandalism	
49 GWTW	
50 Whirl fluid	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Indian prince	1 Less wet
2 Consumers	2 Ancient Nile
3 Glasgow native	3 Conception
4 Crest	4 Expensive
5 Terminal	5 Excitation
6 Novelty	6 Claret
7 Sheldon	
8 "Exodus"	
9 author	
10 Destroy	
11 Sense	
12 Hazardous	
13 Curial	
14 Particle	
15 Swing	
16 Monogamous	
17 Male joyful	
18 Doyle	
19 Some pedes-	
20 trians	
21 Hollow shams	
22 Rust, river	
23 Within the law	
24 Vandalism	
25 GWTW	
26 Whirl fluid	

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Karpov, Sokolov draw 1st chess game

**LINARES, Spain (AP)** — Anatoly Karpov and Andrei Sokolov agreed to a draw after 35 moves in the first game of a chess match that will determine who plays world champion Garry Kasparov for the title next fall. After gaining an advantage in the opening on Tuesday Sokolov, 23, won a pawn and came very near to defeating Karpov, the 35-year-old former champion who lost the title to Kasparov in November 1985. The second game is scheduled for Thursday. Both players ran short of time in the final stages. Sokolov offered the draw after the 35th move by Karpov, who had the disadvantage of playing the black pieces. The first player to reach 7.5 points wins the match. A win counts one point and a draw half a point.

#### U.S. university banned for athletic payments

**DALLAS (AP)** — The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) in its harshest penalty ever against a football programme, banned the sport at Southern Methodist University (SMU) for 1987 because of illegal payments to players. NCAA officials announced Wednesday. The NCAA infractions committee also limited SMU to seven games with outside competition in 1988, none of which can be a home game. The school will not be permitted to be on television or attend a bowl game in 1988. Sanctions against SMU will last until 1990 including reducing the number of assistant coaches from nine to six, cutting the number of scholarships from 25 to 15 for three years, and limiting off-campus recruiting to the head coach and four assistant coaches for three years.

#### Soviets, Czechs lead world handball

**BOLZANO, Italy (R)** — Joint favourites Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia retained their positions at the top of the standings in the men's World Handball Championships in a day which saw a number of fast scoring, top-class matches. The Soviets defeated Romania 30-22 in a tie more closely fought than the final score suggested, but the Poles kept up the pressure at the top of Group One with a 31-22 win over France, putting them second place on goal difference to the Soviet team. In Group Two, the Czechs had a tougher match than they might have expected against fourth-placed Switzerland, securing victory by only one goal, 20-19. West Germany dislodged Denmark from its second-place in the standings after pulling back in the second half to win 23-17.

#### Canadian-Soviet hockey series planned

**Calgary, Alberta (AP)** — Canada's national hockey team and the Moscow Selects will play a 10-game series in Canada March 25 to April 7, it was announced Tuesday. The series opens Wednesday, March 25, at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario. The two teams will meet in Ottawa, March 26, then move to northern Ontario for games in North Bay, March 28; Sudbury, March 29; Sault Ste. Marie, March 30; Thunder Bay, April 1. There'll be a game in Regina on April 2 and the series will conclude in Alberta with games in Medicine Hat, April 4; Lethbridge, April 6; at the Olympic Saddledome in Calgary, April 7. The Selects are an all-star unit of players from teams in the Soviet elite division such as Red Army, Dynamo, Spartak and Wings of the Soviet.

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**VALACHI PAPERS</**

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

Onc sterling	1.5390/400	U.S. dollars
Onc U.S. dollar	1.3310/15	Canadian dollar
	1.8245/55	West German marks
	2.0600/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5385/95	Swiss francs
	37.77/82	Belgian francs
	6.0720/70	French francs
	1296.50/1297.50	Italian lire
	153.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.4730/80	Swedish crowns
	7.0100/200	Norwegian crowns
	6.8800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	407.80/407.50	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were back from their earlier highs, giving ground with the banks as investors grew wary that Brazil's debt problems could be deepening, dealers said.

The market had moved ahead initially in response to the modest overnight rise on Wall Street and continuing confidence that the March 17 budget will bring tax cuts and could trigger lower U.K. interest rates. By 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 12.5 to 1,959.3 after a peak of 1,967.2 at 1018 GMT.

But double figure declines among the four main U.K. clearing banks, all of which figure in the FTSE 100 index, curtailed early buying and slowed the wider market advance.

National Westminster Bank was down 24p to 594, but had traded below 590. Lloyds lost 25p to 459 and has along with Midland, off 18p to 599, the greatest exposure to South American debt of the four main U.K. banks.

Barclays shares lost 11p to 538, holding up ahead of annual figures due on Thursday. Analysts are forecasting a rise in pre-tax profit to around £900 million from £854 million previously.

YOUR DAILY  
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a day to consider your most original and progressive ideas. You can be aided greatly by personalities who are very much a part of the current scene.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have fine vision on how best to gain certain aims. An excellent contact can give the right assistance.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into the business world and show your finest abilities. Take it easy tonight and rest up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are inspired to make a new plan that can soon bring in fine benefits. Prepare for a trip.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Find the right methods that can make your work more profitable and less hard to handle.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have been in a rut too long, so listen to the advanced ideas of partners and become more successful.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get into your duties with enthusiasm. The time will go quickly with a great result at the end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get busy improving any talents of a creative nature that you possess. Much happiness is yours with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Add new gadgets and mechanisms to your home and make it more functional. Be clever and inventive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are a very generous and precise person. Impress others with those qualities and get good results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can now do whatever will make your property and other assets more valuable and attractive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your finest talents to the attention of others and benefit quickly. Be sure to dress for success.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have some inspiring ideas in your quiet hours. Put them into operation quickly for best results.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... be or she will be highly attuned to this New Era age, so be sure to send this one to advanced schools where the most can be made of the natural talents here. Have your progeny around conventional people so that be, or she, can learn good communication skills.

## FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's an unusually good day for getting that interesting course of action into shape. Your ideas can be reduced to down-to-earth, workable successes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over with progressive thinkers how best to gain your finest wishes. Try to please your mate tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It's full speed ahead today. The evening is fine for seeing your best friends and having a delightful time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your new ideas can now be discussed with those who can help you to make them successful.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Talk over with your mate whatever you want to do together and later carry through with such plans.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Reach a meeting of minds with partners about your finest ambitions. Do whatever will gain you more prestige.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You find better ways now for improving your interests. Exercise today and improve your health and stamina.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A new type of recreation is possible to you today, so arrange to have a delightful evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get your home spruced up and then take your family out for an amusement that everyone can enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are enthused today and can accomplish a great deal. Enjoy the company of friends tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your real estate updated and then be off to see friends and relatives. Make sure your budget is working.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how to best express your finest abilities. Get in touch with clever personalities who can be helpful.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your future activities well and then put more effort into them so that you will be successful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... be, or she, will have every ability at understanding unusual views and will plan fascinating recreations for self, playmates, and school chums. Give this one free rein during early childhood. Upon reaching adulthood your progeny will become serious and do very well.

## Arab National Bank reports lower profits

JEDDAH (R) — Arab National Bank said Wednesday its net profit fell 17.8 per cent in 1986, making it the third joint-venture bank in Saudi Arabia to report lower earnings for the year.

Arab National's balance sheet showed its profit after provisions for bad and doubtful loans fell to 152.1 million riyals (\$40.6 million) from 185.1 million (\$49.4 million) in 1985.

The bank more than doubled provisions to 86.6 million riyals (\$23.1 million) from 39.6 million (\$10.6 million) put aside in 1985. Saudi Arabia's 11 commercial banks, nine of which are joint-ventures, have been increasing reserves following a sharp rise in non-performing loans sparked by declining oil revenues and the Middle East economic recession.

Earlier this month, Saudi

American Bank reported a 53.8 per cent fall in 1986 net profit, while Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi — known as Sandi French — saw its net profit dip 14 per cent. Both banks increased provisions sharply.

Arab National reported that underlying revenue before provisions rose nearly nine per cent to 903.8 million riyals (\$241.0 million).

But it is trimming its dividend payout to shareholders by 29 per cent to 40 million riyals (\$10.7 million).

The bank's balance sheet rose 18.8 per cent to 12.37 billion riyals (\$3.3 billion).

Arab National Bank is 60 per cent owned by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Arab Bank Ltd. of Jordan.

## Largest Bahraini bank posts \$107 million profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the largest Bahrain-based bank, Wednesday reported a steady net profit for 1986 and said it had maintained earnings despite a drop in traditional income sources.

The bank reported a consolidated net 1986 profit of \$107 million, marginally down from \$109 million in 1985.

ABC said in a statement it had been able to generate higher fee income through new products and services.

Net non-interest income rose to \$141 million in 1986 from \$98 million in 1985 and accounted for 35 per cent of total income, compared with 28.5 per cent in 1985.

Banks in the offshore financial

centre of Bahrain have generally moved away from traditional business, such as sovereign and corporate lending, following an international trend towards securities and fee earning businesses.

ABC reported an 11.6 per cent rise in group assets to \$14.58 billion at the end of 1986 and said it was able to reduce the level of loan provisions made during the year to \$53 million from \$61 million in 1985.

The bank is owned equally by Kuwait's finance ministry, Libya's treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. ABC's board of directors is recommending an unchanged dividend of \$53 million for 1986.

## British bank announces £1b profit for first time

LONDON (R) — The National Westminster Bank Nat West Tuesday became the first British bank ever to announce profits of more than £1 billion — cheering news for a banking sector worried by Latin American debt.

It announced pre-tax profits of £1.01 billion (\$1.55 billion) for 1986, up 26 per cent on £804 million (\$1.24 billion) in 1985.

Bank stocks led a retreat on Wall Street Monday night after Brazil said on Friday it was suspending interest payments.

But the buoyant performance by Nat West, one of the four big British clearing banks, impressed the London Stock Exchange.

Its share price rose nine pence (14 cents) to 627 pence (\$9.66) Tuesday morning. The other big banks, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland, also edged ahead a penny (cent) or two as investors awaited their figures, due in the next few days.

Chairman Lord Boardman said National Westminster increased its provision for "bad and doubtful debt" — funds for covering debts which are not or are unlikely to be repaid — to £373 million (\$574 million) from £338 million (\$521 million) in 1985.

This showed the bank's "continuing prudent view of international trading and world economic conditions," he said.

Lord Boardman said the 1986 record profits "have been earned against very tough competition in financial services, both in the British domestic market and internationally. This is an increase of 26 per cent on 1985 and continues the excellent growth of our business."

His statement said results so far this year were satisfactory and the bank took "a confident view" of prospects.

Domestic banking accounted for almost three-quarters of the pre-tax profits. It brought in £720 million (\$1.1 billion) after £526 million (\$810 million) in 1985.

Nat West said that, of net profit of £621 million (\$967 million), £462 million (\$711 million) was transferred to group reserves for future business developments.

"More than £1 billion (\$1.5 billion) (is) committed to technology over the next five years, planned improvements in customer services and further strengthening of our international business," chief executive Philip Wilkinson said.

## Official sees need to turn Aqaba city into free zone

AMMAN (J.T.) — The economic slowdown affecting the region has delayed a decision by the cabinet to declare the whole city of Aqaba a free zone area.

According to a report in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour, the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) submitted a recommendation last year to change the status of Aqaba because of declining activities in the city.

The report quoted Mr. Yasin Al-Kayed, general manager of FZC as saying that since the Israeli port of Eilat was transformed into a free zone last year, Aqaba was adversely affected.

Mr. Al-Kayed hoped that a decision to classify all of Aqaba as a free zone area would be adopted in the near future.

## CBJ figures show activity

According to the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ's) monthly statistical bulletin, 209 vessels docked at Aqaba port during December 1986 compared to 214 ships during the previous month.

On a yearly basis, the number of vessels banded at Aqaba during 1986 was nearly unchanged from 1985 when 2,671 ships docked at the port. In 1984 the total was 2,329 vessels.

The CBJ bulletin showed that the number of passengers passing through Aqaba totaled 839,654 during 1986. The figure for arrivals was 435,604 and for departures 404,050.

During 1985 the numbers were 441,278 and 211,047 passengers respectively.

On a monthly basis, a total of 23,289 passengers arrived through Aqaba in December compared to 21,192 arrivals during the previous month. Departures, however, was less by 3,595 passengers from the November figure of 18,040.

## UAE bans Austrian milk

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has banned two brands of Austrian powdered milk, saying they contained excessive radiation.

Officials said they had found unacceptably high levels of radiation in Nono and Famy brands of powdered milk and ordered all stocks to be returned to their agents. Retailers identified the brands as Austrian.

The officials said sale of the brands would be banned until further notice.

Separately, authorities at Sharjah in the northern UAE have turned back a Turkish ship that arrived this week after its 214-tonne cargo of Turkish animal fodder was found to contain several times acceptable radiation levels.

The ship was ordered to return the cargo, officials said.

The UAE began routine testing of imported foodstuffs for radiation in the aftermath of last year's Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union.

## Baker warns other nations not to follow Brazil's stand

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brazil's decision to suspend payments on part of its international debt should not be seen as a signal to other Latin American debtor nations to follow suit, says U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker.

Mr. Baker said he is confident that Brazil will work out a new plan for meeting payments on the \$78 billion it owes to commercial banks. But he added that failure by that nation to reach agreement with its creditors "would have a detrimental effect on our banks."

Mr. Baker faces questioning Thursday from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Brazilian situation and on the administration's request to beef up funding for the World Bank and other agencies that provide loans to developing nations.

Loans from American banks to Brazil amount to \$23.3 billion, Mr. Baker said.

Brazil's foreign debt totals \$108 billion. The debt-suspension announcement covered just the portion it owes to commercial banks, not government-to-government loans.

Mr. Baker, whose push for new bank lending to Third World debtors was dealt a setback by the Brazilian action, told a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday that new loans are still necessary if Latin American economies are to be revived.

"There is no way (those nations) can generate the economic growth that is required to earn their way back unless they have assurance of some capital flow... and one of the ways is additional lending," Mr. Baker said.

The treasury secretary said that, "while we are concerned about (the Brazilian action) we do not see this as something that's going to spread to a whole lot of other debtor nations."

Latin American nations overall owe \$350 billion to foreign creditors.

In the aftermath of the Brazilian move, Argentina's Treasury Secretary Mario Broderick said, suggested that his nation might follow Brazil's example if it cannot get an additional \$2.15 billion from international creditors.

But Mr. Baker told the panel he doubted that Argentina, whose foreign debt totals \$52 billion, would take such a step.

"They have given every indication of wanting to handle their debt problem in the moderate and non-confrontational manner they have handled it (before)," he said.

Both Mr. Baker and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker in separate testimony on Tuesday sought to downplay the significance of the Brazilian decision to suspend interest payments until it can work out new terms with its creditors.

Mr. Volcker told the Senate Budget Committee that he expected Brazil would come up with a plan.

"Brazil is clearly going to need new financing, but that has to be built on the basis of a new economic programme," Mr. Volcker said. "It is up to Brazil to develop a sound economic programme. It

is in their own interests."

And Mr. Baker urged U.S. banks with a big stake in Brazil "not to panic."

"The announcement did not say they will not pay, it just says their reserves are so low they cannot pay now," Mr. Baker said.

The White House expressed concern Tuesday about Brazil's moratorium on debt payments.

"We are of course concerned about Brazil's situation with regard to its debt," presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters. "I know this is something they will be working out with their commercial lenders. Beyond that I will not comment."

Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina to keep contact on debt

Meanwhile, the presidents of Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina have agreed to maintain permanent contacts on their countries' negotiations with creditor banks, according to a government communique released in Caracas.

The statement said they had also instructed their ministers of finance to follow up the contacts.

Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi Monday had telephone conversations with his Brazilian and Argentinian counterparts, Mr. Jose Sarney Costa and Mr. Raul Alfonsin, on foreign debt and the problems of servicing it.

The communique said the three presidents held the view that servicing of foreign debts should not hinder the "aspirations of our peoples to achieve economic growth and social gains."

The three also stressed the need for the international financial community to appreciate that their countries had "the will to fulfill our commitments, but on the understanding that we cannot become net exporters of capital."

Mexico will not follow suit

In Mexico City, a growing number of government and private sector leaders say Mexico does not need to resort to a suspension of payments of its \$100 billion foreign debt as Brazil did.

"There is no reason for Mexico to resort to a moratorium since, in contrast to Brazil, it has the capacity to pay, sufficient international reserves and a good arrangement with its creditors," the newspaper Excelsior on Tuesday quoted Mr. Manuel Mancera Aguayo, director of the Central Bank of Mexico, as saying.

Senate leader Hugo Margain, who is a former ambassador to the United States, said Mexico has its own strategy and has no need to provoke a clash with its creditors.

Mexico last year reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a \$14 billion

rescue package. Delivery of part of the credit has been delayed because some foreign banks refused to endorse the agreement. Mexico's ability to repay its foreign debt was hampered by the plunge in international oil prices last year.

The country received a \$1.1 billion bridge loan from central banks of 17 countries while it negotiated a new long-term loan with foreign commercial banks. That loan has been repaid, the government announced last week.

Suspension of foreign debt payments "is not the route," Excelsior quoted Mr. Claudio Gonzalez, president of the private sector Business Coordinating Council as saying. "It would bring more problems than solutions."

Leftist labour unions have called for a debt moratorium, saying the debt has already been covered by the interest payments.

Philippines to go ahead with debt talks

In Manila, the Philippine government announced it will go ahead with debt rescheduling talks next week, but will keep a close watch on how creditor banks react to Brazil's suspension of interest payments.

Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin said Wednesday.

Asked if the government had decided on a proposal that the talks be postponed while Manila studies Brazil's action, Mr. Ongpin told Reuters: "The talks will push through as scheduled."

He said he and central bank governor, Mr. Jose Fernandez, would leave on Sunday for the talks in New York next Tuesday, adding: "We are taking a wait-and-see attitude on what happens, specially how the banks react (to Brazil's move)."

Central bank sources told Reuters that Mr. Ongpin and other monetary officials Tuesday discussed a memorandum from Economic Planning Minister Solita Monsod.

The memorandum recommended a hard line in the talks, which are about the restructuring of \$3.6 billion of foreign debt falling due between January 1987 and December 1992. The nation owes a total of \$26 billion overseas.

A senior bank official said Mr. Ongpin and Ms. Monsod had agreed that the talks should not be delayed.

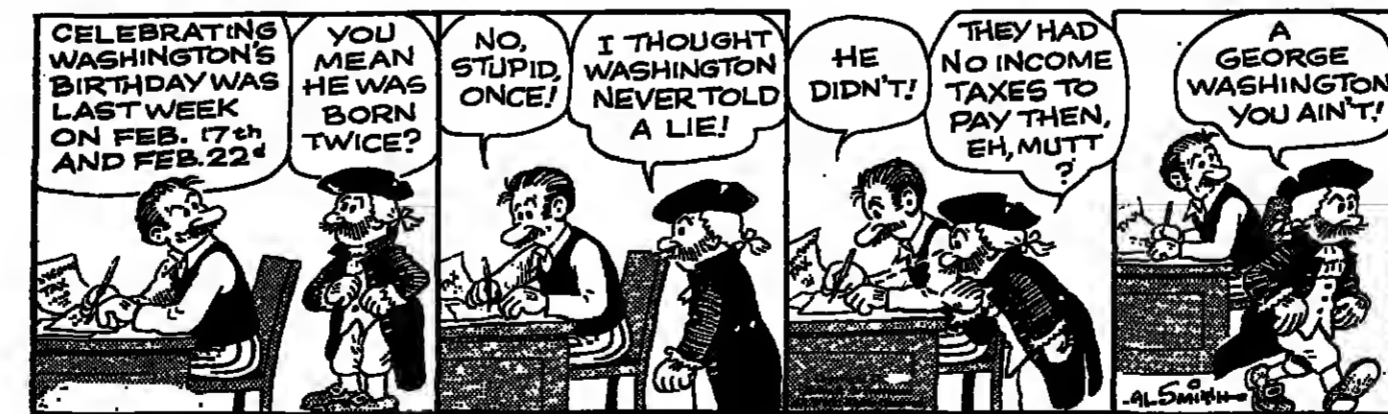
"It was felt that it would be in the interests of the Philippines to proceed, considering the fact that Brazil had taken unilateral action," the official said. "Brazil's radical stand might force the banks to take a more flexible view."

The Philippines has demanded terms better than those offered last October to Mexico, which won a 20-year repayment at 13/16 percentage points over London Inter Bank Offered Rates (LIBOR). Manila is seeking 5/8 points over LIBOR, while the banks are reported to be in favour of 1 1/4 points.

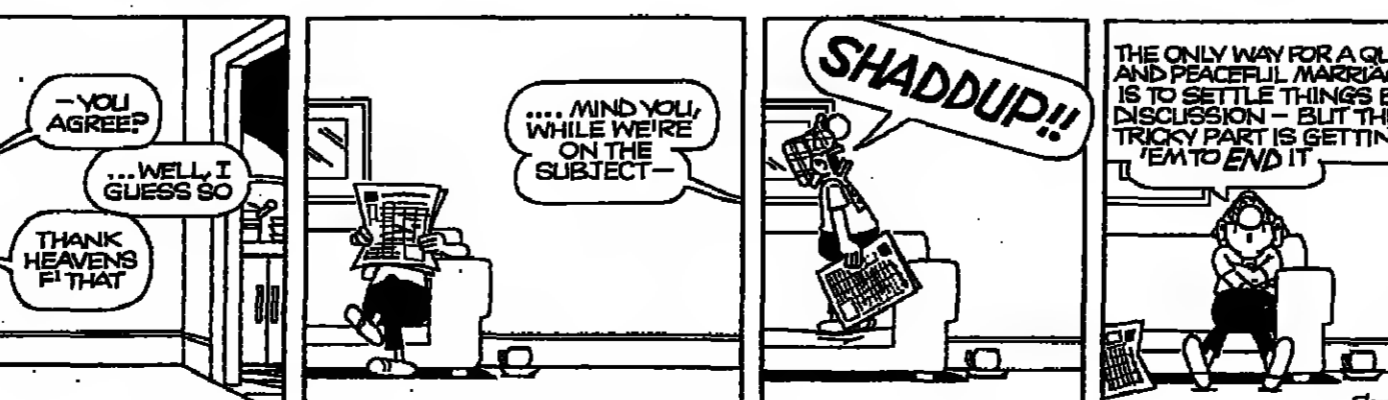
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



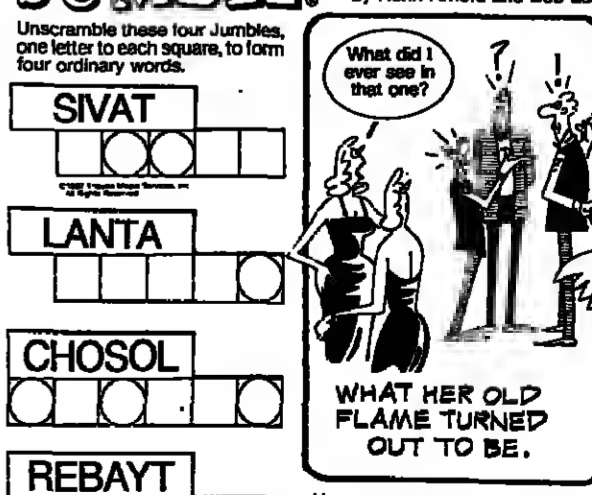
## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: TAWNY WOVEN PARTY MORQUE  
Answer: What an unlabeled writer might earn by his pen — "PEN-URY"

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